The Lost Weekend Encyclopedia Article

The Lost Weekend

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The Lost Weekend

Released in 1945 by Paramount Studios, *The Lost Weekend,* written by Charles Brackett and Billy Wilder, is considered Holly-wood's first film about the ravages of substance abuse. A grim, harrowing, and emotional drama, the film focuses on a struggling writer and his alcoholism. Lobbyists for the liquor industry tried to have the film destroyed before release, fearing the negative depiction of their product, to no avail. Upon release, the film was widely popular, with audiences and critics. It received four Oscars: best actor for Ray Milland, and best director, best screenplay, and best picture for Billy Wilder.

Further Reading:

Denzin, Norman K. *Hollywood Shot by Shot: Alcoholism in American Cinema.* New York, Aldine De Gruyter, 1991.