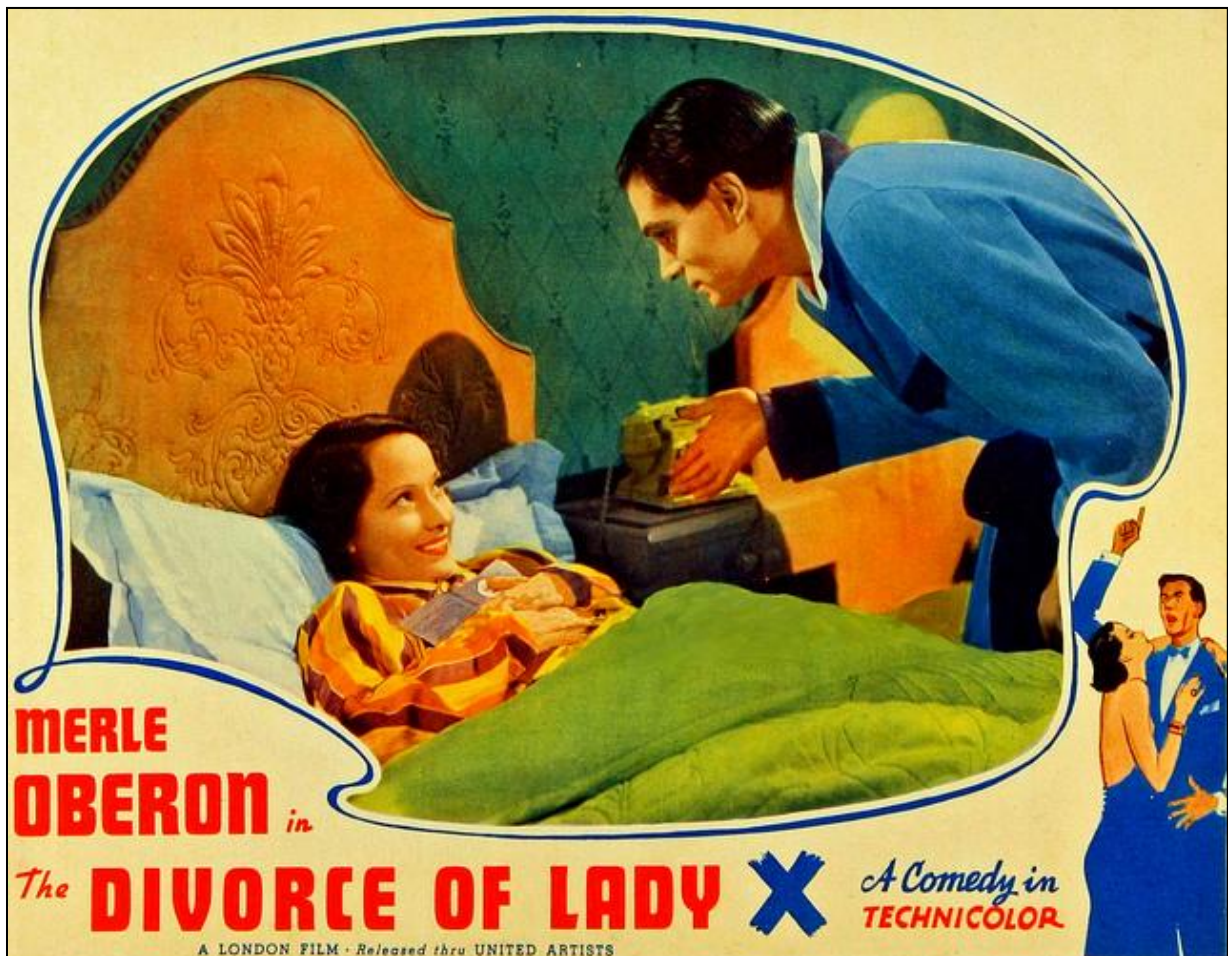


Review #42 : *The Divorce of Lady X* (1938)

Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier

TRAILER

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-XQInefR18>

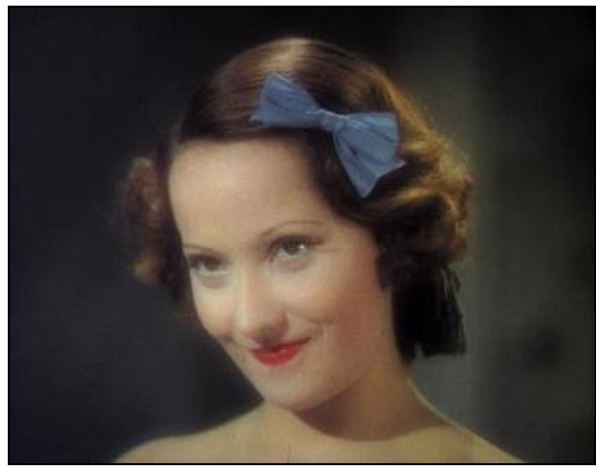


SYNOPSIS

Olivier is lawyer Everard Logan – a dynamic and totally misogynist barrister. One night he checks into a hotel just ahead of a crowd of people. It is a very foggy night and the crowd – who has been attending a party in the hotel – need beds. The management tries to get Logan to allow one or two socialite ladies to sleep on a couch and a day bed in his rooms, but he refuses. Yet he has not reckoned with Merle Oberon as perky charmer Leslie Steele. The grand-daughter of a high court judge, she manages to get into Logan's rooms and manipulates

him to not only agree to her sleeping there, but appropriates his bed and pyjamas : he goes onto the couch – much to his discomfort.

The next day they share a breakfast and in the small talk it is evident that despite his mistrust of women Logan finds Leslie very attractive. But she kittenishly refuses to tell him her name. She is determined to learn more about him – and she finds his attitude toward women infuriating. In the meantime, Logan is approached by a wealthy nobleman (Ralph Richardson as Lord Mere) as a potential client. Mere suspects his wife Lady Mere (Binnie Barnes) of having an affair. In fact, he tells Logan her Ladyship was with her lover in Logan's Hotel on the night of the fog. Logan naturally jumps to the conclusion that Lady Mere was his mysterious roommate that night...



REVIEW

A British farce of mistaken identities : *The Divorce of Lady X* is a delightful light comedy – elegantly conducted though notably dated.

The unique and original screenplay is absolutely brilliant. It has a simple and entertaining plot with many twists – to which Laurence Olivier gives unmatched and sarcastic gusto – his silver screen performances are always impeccable and professional – face to the adorable little charmer Merle Oberon. Oberon and Olivier have a wonderful chemistry onscreen, and they are just as contrastingly wonderful in *Wuthering Heights*. Their first acquaintance is a bit turbulent but they soon hit it off although he thinks she is married, which results in a couple of embarrassing and deliciously funny situations.

If sweet old-fashioned and romantic comedy catch your fancy you couldn't ask for better than this. Don't miss this wonderful film. Fantastic ! +++