

William LeBaron Biography



William LeBaron, - Class of 1901 - b. February 16, 1883 - d. February 9, 1958 - Born in Elgin Illinois he was an American film producer. He was a student at the University of Chicago, 1901-1903 and at New your University, 1903-1904. He was listed in *Who's Who in America*, volume 3.

LeBaron's film credits included *Cimarron*, the film that won the Academy Award for Outstanding Production at the 4th Academy Awards ceremony for 1930-1931.

In addition to being a producer, LeBaron served as the last production chief of Film Booking Offices of America and at FBO's successor, RKO Pictures, where he was replaced by David O. Selznick.

LeBaron was married to Mabel Hollins, a British musical comedy actress. He is buried in Chapel of the Pines Crematory.

Producer, songwriter, composer and author, educated at the University of Chicago and New York University. He wrote a number of Broadway stage scores and libretti, and worked as the managing editor of *Collier's Weekly* magazine between 1918 and 1919, then was the director general of *Cosmopolitan Productions* until 1924.

Coming to Hollywood in 1924, he began producing films. By 1929, he was in charge of production for RKO, subsequently becoming production chief for Paramount and 20th Century-Fox. Joining ASCAP in 1933, his popular-song compositions include "American Serenade" (from "Her Regiment", "Brothers", "Canzonetta" "Days That Used to Be", "Deep in Your Eyes", "First Love", "Girls Along Fifth Avenue", "Half Moon", "Her Regiment", "I'm in Love" (from "Apple Blossoms"), "I'll Be True to You", "Letter Song" (from "Apple Blossoms"), "Little Book" (from "The Half Moon", "Little Girl's Goodbye" (from "Apple Blossoms"), "Little Old New York", "The Marriage Knot" (from "Apple Blossoms"), "Nancy's Farewell", "On Miami Shore", "Overture", "Second Violin", "Serenade", "Soldier Men", "Someday", "Sometime We Will Meet Again", "Star of Love", "Superlative Love", "Twixt Love and Duty", "When Knighthood Was in Flower", "When Wedding Bells are Ringing", "Who Can Tell?", and "You Are Free". His wife, Mabel Hollins, was a British musical-comedy actress.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Beau Geste - 1926

It's the Old Army Game - 1926

Love 'Em and Leave 'Em - 1926

The Show-Off - 1926

Running Wild - 1927

Love's Greatest Mistake - 1927

William LeBaron Biography

Blind Alleys - 1927

Street Girl - 1929

Side Street - 1929

Rio Rita - 1929

Hit the Deck - 1930

Hook, Line and Sinker - 1930

Midnight Mystery - 1930

The Case of Sergeant Grischa - 1930

Conspiracy - 1930

Traveling Husbands - 1931

Cimarron - 1931

The Sin Ship - 1931

The Lady Refuses - 1931

Kept Husbands - 1931

Cracked Nuts - 1931

The Public Defender - 1931

She Done Him Wrong - 1933

Baby Face - 1933

I'm No Angel - 1933

Belle of the Nineties- 1934

It's a Gift - 1934

Man on the Flying Trapeze - 1935

Klondike Annie - 1936

The Princess Comes Across - 1936

Klondike Annie (1936)S

The Princess Comes Across (1936)

Till We Meet Again (1936)

Born to the West (1937)

The Buccaneer (1938)

Television Spy (1939)

Emergency Squad (1940)

Golden Gloves (1940)

Dr. Cyclops (1940)

Week-End in Havana (1941)

Orchestra Wives (1942)

Footlight Serenade (1942)

Iceland (1942)

Springtime in the Rockies (1942)

The Gang's All Here (1943)

Pin Up Girl (1944)

Carnegie Hall (1947)

William LeBaron Biography

From the Daily Herald's article on William LeBaron's induction into the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame Sunday, February 18, 2018

• William LeBaron, Visual Arts-Film Producer, was born in Elgin in 1883. He graduated from Elgin High School and attended the University of Chicago and New York University. A producer, songwriter, composer and author, he wrote a number of Broadway stage scores and libretti.

More than 10 years of song writing in New York City prepared him for writing the book and lyrics for 10 Broadway plays.

LeBaron worked as the managing editor of Colliers Magazine, and then director general of Cosmopolitan Productions until 1924, when he caught the eye of financiers like Joseph Kennedy, who suggested he go to Hollywood. Reluctantly he did.

In Hollywood, he began producing films. He also joined ASCAP in 1933 and wrote dozens of popular songs. He was chief production executive of Film Booking Offices of America in 1927, production chief at RKO Studios from 1929-1931 and production chief at Paramount Studios from 1936-1941. He was the head of the Independent Production Unit at 20th Century Fox from 1941 until he retired in 1947.

LeBaron died Feb. 9, 1958.