



Now available English and American Language and Literature

Martina Anzinger

Gainsborough Pictures Reframed

Or: Raising Jane Austen for 1990s Film

A Film-Historic and Film-Analytical Study of the 1995 Films
Sense and Sensibility and *Persuasion*

Frankfurt/M., Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Wien, 2003. 234 pp.

European University Studies; Series 14, Anglo-Saxon Language and Literature. Vol. 397

ISBN 3-631-50199-4 · pb. € 37.80* / US-\$ 33.95 / £ 23.-

US-ISBN 0-8204-6053-2

The BBC's long-standing love affair with a 200-year-old English rose is a matter of record. There's hardly been a post-war decade that has not seen a broadcast adaptation of Jane Austen. The novels of this deliciously perspicacious chronicler of Georgian middle class manners and morals have long occupied a pre-eminent place in the cultural canon of English literature.

How strange, then, that Britain's film studios have proved virginally insensible to the lure of Miss Austen's sensibilities. And, perhaps even more implausibly, that their big country cousins across the Atlantic dropped her like a hot brick after the briefest of flirtations.

But then Laurence Olivier's dashing Darcy and Greer Garson's lascivious Lizzy in 1940 were competing with the hardboiled gumshoes and femme fatales of the hey-day of film noir. So, was it all just Hollywood *Pride and Prejudice*?

Up to a point Lord Copper, author Martina Anzinger argues in this uniquely playful dissection of a long-enduring English obsession.

For in the mid-90s, Tinseltown suddenly discovered the hidden charms of a not-so-plain Jane. And realising they were mere Johnnies-come-lately to the BBC in the dollar driveway to *Mansfield Park*, the film moguls knew they had to get into bed with this Brit broad - fast.

Clueless, a Beverly Hills high school adaptation of *Emma*, was the first to hit the silver screen, followed soon after by a co-production of *Sense and Sensibility* - backed by American greenbacks and packed with bankable Brit names.

The American money men had pussyfooted around with *Persuasion*, a BBC, French and Boston network co-production, releasing it initially on the arthouse cinema circuit after a one-theatre Manhattan run. Then *Sensibility* took off, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In her broad-ranging study, Miss Anzinger identifies the delicate counterpoint between the sensibilities of British and Hollywood cinema, and reveals an astonishing synergy between the modern-day interpreters of independent works of art that transcend time, taste and culture.

The Austrian author is a Masters degree student at London's Westminster University, and she brings the full range of structural, feminist and marxist analysis to this lit-crit party.

With sublime delicacy she teases out a truth universally acknowledged, that it's good to be in love - but even better if you've got a bit of cash. US dollars accepted.

PETER LANG GMBH
Europäischer Verlag der Wissenschaften
Eschborner Landstr. 42-50

D - 60489 Frankfurt/M.

Phone ++49/69/78 07 05-0
Fax ++49/69/78 07 05-50
e-mail: zentrale.frankfurt@peterlang.com
www.peterlang.de

