Women's Lib advocates should adore this film until their betrayal in the last five minutes, while Male Supremacists, who have to wait until the second half of the film for George Brent to arrive and begin yanking the shore - at least have the satisfaction of the film's laughs, and the knowledge that Brent married Miss Chatterton off-screen too. There's nothing radically new in its super-efficient but unloved plot: the tale of a love story; Leatrice Joy and Pauline Frederick had done it before. However, in other ways Miss Chatterton's tastes are more down to earth; for her Catherine the Great brand of seduction of male employees, she plays appropriate (and WS-owned) mood music ranging from "Shanghai Lil" to "Shuffle Off to Buffalo", although it's hard-headed as Miss Chatterton would choose to live like an Oriental potentate.

Her backyard pool resembles a modest adjustment of about half of busy Berkeley's "Footlight Parade" pool, and even this falls beside the ornate foyer style of her home - a sweeping circular staircase that is a mixture of Lang's Gothic and Wellman's futuristic, topped off by an organist poised on the very top of the wall, with no apparent means of access or retreat. However, in other ways Miss Chatterton's tastes are more down to earth; for her Catherine the Great brand of seduction of male employees, she plays appropriate (and WS-owned) mood music ranging from "Shanghai Lil" to "Shuffle Off to Buffalo", although it's hard-headed as Miss Chatterton would choose to live like an Oriental potentate.

The New School Film Series 31: Program #6

July 19, 1978

MADELEINE (Rank-General Film Distributors, 1950) Directed by David Lean

Produced by Stanley Haynes; Scenario, Nicholas Phipps, Stanley Haynes; Sets, John Bryan; Costumes, Guy Green; Music, William Alwyn; 100 minutes.

With Ann Todd, Ivan Desny, Leslie Banks, Norman Wooland, Barbara Everest, Susan Stranks, Patricia Raine, Elizabeth Sellars, Jean Cadell, Eugene Deckers, Ivor Barnard.

Coming virtually mid-way in Lean's career - the 8th of his 15 films between 1942 and "Ryan's Daughter" of 1970 - "Madeleine" because of its lukewarm reaction at the boxoffice, has been allowed to slip into mild oblivion; it was not even included in the MMA's Lean cycle in the early 70's. It was the last film in a series of films for Rank; a big improvement over its immediate predecessors, "Passionate Friends", but admittedly below the standard of "Passionate Friends" and the two Dickens films. However, it need not fear unfavorable comparison with the two Dickens films. However, it need not fear unfavorable comparison with the earlier "Passionate Friends". The cast is very good, the performances are solid, but the film is not as good as the stage play.

The film has fine settings, excellent photography, and an excellent, well-chosen score. The orchestral scenes on the beach in "Ryan's Daughter" certainly originate in "Madeleine". In the 40's, there was a "Little Drummer Girl" of the same name as the stage play, but the film was not as good as the stage play. The romantic scenes on the beach in "Ryan's Daughter" certainly originate in "Madeleine". In the 40's, there was a "Little Drummer Girl" of the same name as the stage play, but the film was not as good as the stage play. The romantic scenes on the beach in "Ryan's Daughter" certainly originate in "Madeleine". In the 40's, there was a "Little Drummer Girl" of the same name as the stage play, but the film was not as good as the stage play.

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