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## Ann Dvorak

Christina Rice

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Item type: book

Ann Dvorak may not have been the best-known actress of Hollywood's golden age, but she certainly made her mark. She blazed onto screens in 1932 as Paul Muni's doomed sister in *Scarface*, and seemed poised for stardom as a darling of the daring pre-Code era. However, poor business decisions, studio battles with Warner Bros., extended absences, and overbearing husbands torpedoed Ann's chances of rising to the heights within the structure of the Hollywood studio system like contemporaries Bette Davis and Jean Harlow. Dvorak sued Warner Bros. to get out of her long-term contract, inspiring Davis and James Cagney to follow in her footsteps with their similar, and more well-known cases. Just as her freelance career began gaining steam, she instead chose to literally fly into a war zone, becoming a correspondent and London ambulance driver during World War II. After the war, Dvorak's career limped along into the early 1950s, as she gave bright performances in generally dim films, then abruptly opted for retirement, and obscurity, in Hawaii. Now, for the first time, the fascinating life and career of Ann Dvorak is explored by Christina Rice, who presents an in-depth look at this complicated woman who briefly took Hollywood by storm but seemed determined to throw away success with both hands and instead became Hollywood's forgotten rebel.

## Introduction

Christina Rice

in *Ann Dvorak: Hollywood's Forgotten Rebel*

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This chapter introduces the reader to Ann Dvorak and gives an overview of her successes and failures in the film industry. Also discussed are the possible reasons why her career did not live up to early evident potential and how Dvorak's decision making differed from contemporary Bette Davis's. Finally, the case is made as to why Ann Dvorak's contributions to cinema, particularly in the pre-Code era, should be acknowledged and why her story deserves to be told.

## Two Films with James Cagney

Joseph McBride

in *Hawks on Hawks*

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Item type: chapter

Hawks remembers the two films Hawks made with James Cagney, *The Crowd Roars* and *Ceiling Zero*, and describes working with Spig Wead and Ann Dvorak.