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Nota di contenuto	1. A Warner Bros. Story Retold -- 2. Broadway on Film: The Gold Diggers (Beaumont 1923) -- 3. Lubitsch's The Marriage Circle (1924) -- 4. The Best of Broadway at Warner Bros., 1924 to 1929 -- 5. The George Arliss Star Company at Warners, 1929-1933 -- 6. Broadway on a Budget: Gold Diggers of 1933 (LeRoy) and Lilly Turner (Wellman 1933) -- 7. The Petrified Forest: A Drama for Broadway and Hollywood, 1935-1936 -- 8. Warners' Prestige Drama Queen: Bette Davis, 1937-1939 -- 9. Reviewing Warners' Production of Broadway-based Prestige Pictures of the Twenties and Thirties.

## Sommario/riassunto

This book offers a different take on the early history of Warner Bros., the studio renowned for introducing talking pictures and developing the gangster film and backstage musical comedy. The focus here is on the studio's sustained commitment to produce films based on stage plays. This led to the creation of a stock company of talented actors, to the introduction of sound cinema, to the recruitment of leading Broadway stars such as John Barrymore and George Arliss and to films as diverse as *The Gold Diggers* (1923), *The Marriage Circle* (1924), *Beau Brummel* (1924), *Disraeli* (1929), *Lilly Turner* (1933), *The Petrified Forest* (1936) and *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex* (1939). Even the most crippling effects of the Depression in 1933 did not prevent Warners' production of films based on stage plays, many being transformed into star vehicles for the likes of Ruth Chatterton, Leslie Howard and Bette Davis.

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