

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: Lets Make It Legal

[1 Disc]

[Claudette Colbert - Lead actress](#)

Library Image



ISBN: 5039036025270



Let's Make It Legal



Original film poster

Directed by	Richard Sale
Screenplay by	I.A.L. Diamond F. Hugh Herbert
Based on	A story by Mortimer Braus
Produced by	Robert Bassler
Starring	Claudette Colbert Macdonald Carey Zachary Scott Barbara Bates
Cinematography	Lucien Ballard
Edited by	Robert Fritch
Music by	Cyril J. Mockridge Lionel Newman
Production company	20th Century-Fox
Distributed by	20th Century-Fox
Release date	November 6, 1951
Running time	77 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Box office	\$1.25 million (US rentals) ^[1]

Information

Title: Lets Make It Legal - 6th November 1951 United Kingdom.

Origin: United States

Release date: United States – 31st October 1951 (Los Angeles, California)

AKA: Also known as: Don't call Me Mother

Genres: Comedy, Drama, Romance

Classification: U

Disc Nos. 1

Duration: 1hr 17m

Region Code:

Region:

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: 20th Century Fox Studios - 10201 Pico Blvd., Century City, Los Angeles, California, USA(Studio)

Sound mix: Mono

Pal – B&W

Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1 1.33.1

Title:

Storyline

Hugh (Macdonald Carey) and Miriam Halsworth (Claudette Colbert) are in the final stages of their divorce procedure. Miriam wants to separate because he is addicted to gambling - although he often wins. She is living with her daughter Barbara (Barbara Bates), her son-in-law Jerry Denham (Robert Wagner) and her little grandchild. Hugh is living at the hotel where he works.

Hugh is also Jerry's boss. They work in the publicity department for the Miramar Hotel and have to follow Victor Macfarland (Zachary Scott), a self-made millionaire who is trying to get on the financial advisory committee for the President. Twenty years ago, Hugh and Victor were rivals for Miriam's hand.

A blonde fortune hunter, Joyce Mannering (Marilyn Monroe), is trying to attract Victor, but he's only interested in winning back Miriam. Miriam accepts Victor's marriage proposal, but is disappointed when Victor postpones the marriage for a hearing on his appointment in Washington. Just before he steps on the plane, he explains to Miriam why he left her twenty years before (but the audience cannot hear what he says because the plane makes too much noise).

Miriam is furious with Hugh but he does not know why. She refuses to let him in, which leads to a comical intermezzo in which Hugh and Jerry are arrested by the police. They are identified by Miriam and Barbara, and leave the police station.

Back home Miriam explains to Hugh that she was so angry because Victor told her that twenty years ago Hugh won her hand in a game of craps. Hugh admits this, and still has those two dice with him. He asks her to throw. It turns out the dice were loaded; they always throw three and four. Hugh admits he cheated because the stake was so high. Miriam is pleased with this explanation and they reconcile. [Wiki](#)

The divorce of Hugh and Miriam Halsworth becomes final at midnight. Hugh wouldn't dream of calling it off, but can't abandon his rose garden. Things change that afternoon when Miriam's old suitor Victor MacFarland checks into the hotel where Hugh is publicity man. With Miriam's daughter Barbara rooting for Hugh and son-in-law Jerry rooting for Victor, things are unlikely to be resolved by midnight. [MDb](#)

General Review - Strangely progressive and entertaining

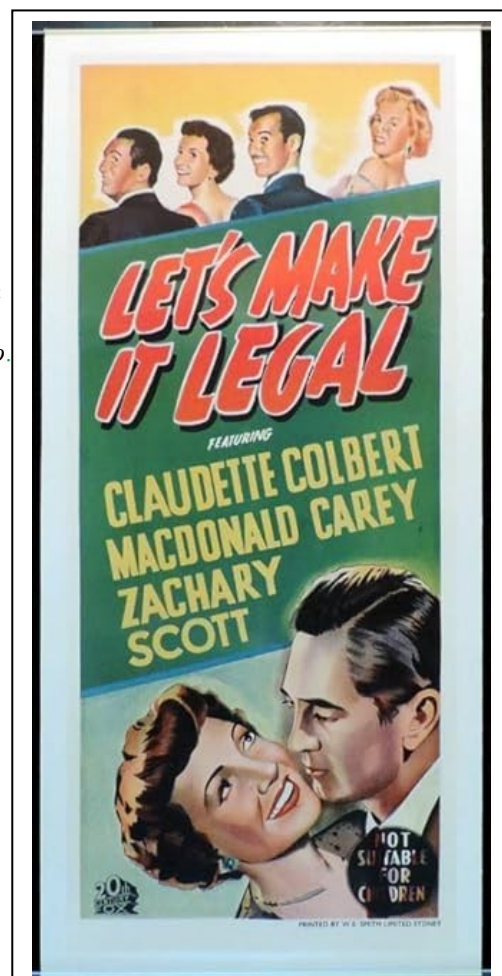
The two main male characters are both pursuing and fighting over the older woman (Claudette Colbert) and ignoring the charms of the young bombshell (Marilyn Monroe)! Surely that is a progressive and unusual story line for 1951, maybe for any era. Colbert and the two men do fine work, and Monroe looks great and does a few funny physical bits in her small role

(it is absurd that the DVD is promoted as a Marilyn Monroe movie when leading actress is Claudette Colbert (the latter a popular star in her own right)).

Great period costumes, decor and language, too. This is an entertaining, sometimes funny '50s film with a strangely progressive bent, a strong older-woman lead, and some interesting character quirks (how can you not love a guy whose passions are horse betting and rose cultivation), ok, plus a Marilyn Monroe cameo.

Cast

Claudette Colbert as Miriam Halsworth
Macdonald Carey as Hugh Halsworth
Zachary Scott as Victor Macfarland
Barbara Bates as Barbara Denham
Robert Wagner as Jerry Denham
Marilyn Monroe as Joyce Mannering
Frank Cady as Ferguson
Jim Hayward as Pete the gardener
Carol Savage as Miss Jessup
Paul Gerrits as Milkman
Betty Jane Bowen as Secretary
Vicki Raaf as Peggy (Hugh's secretary)
Ralph Sanford as Police Lieutenant
Harry Denny as Hotel Manager
Harry Harvey, Sr. as Postman John McLiam as Harry
Alan Napier as Gentleman who escorts Eliza to the Queen of Transylvania
Barbara Pepper as Doolittle's dancing partner



Note: Reference Only – Not available for loan or Sale – Private Collection

Olive Reeves-Smith as Mrs. Hopkins
Baroness Rothschild as the Queen of Transylvania
Grady Sutton as Ball Guest

Parental Guidance

Certification

Australia-PGTV ratingAOriginal RatingG1992, Re-rating, Finland-S, France-Tous publics, Sweden-Btl, United Kingdom-U2004U1951, United States-Not RatedApprovedcertificate #15310

Sex & Nudity –None **Violence & Gore**- None, **Profanity**-None **Alcohol, drugs & Smoking** - Mild, **Frightening & Intense Scenes** –None



Lead Actress: Claudette Colbert - Film

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