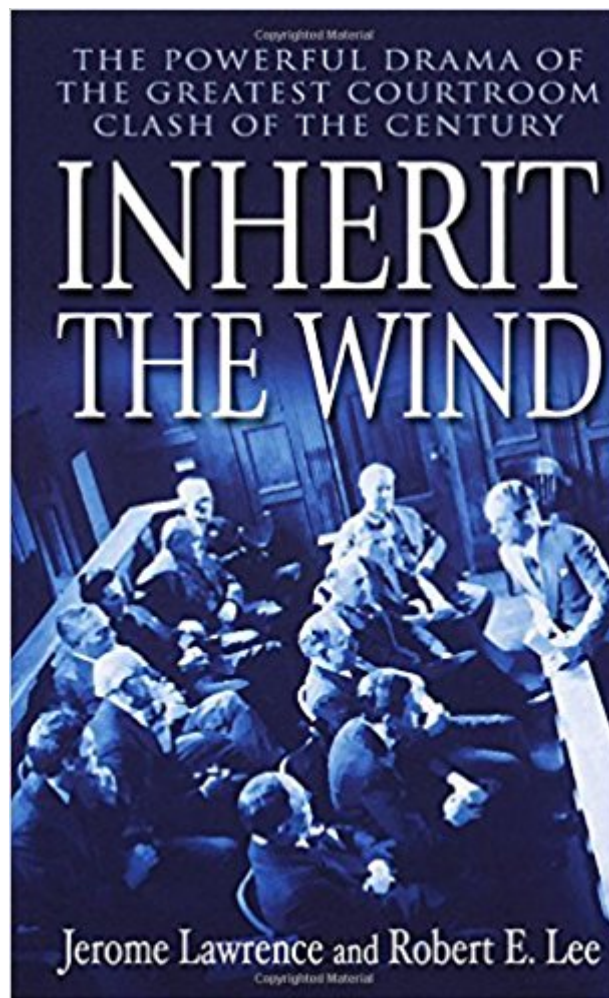




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# **Inherit The Wind: The Powerful Drama Of The Greatest Courtroom Clash Of The Century**



## Synopsis

The accused was a slight, frightened man who had deliberately broken the law. His trial was a Roman circus. The chief gladiators were two great legal giants of the century. Like two bull elephants locked in mortal combat, they bellowed and roared imprecations and abuse. The spectators sat uneasily in the sweltering heat with murder in their hearts, barely able to restrain themselves. At stake was the freedom of every American. One of the most moving and meaningful plays of our generation. "a tidal wave of a drama." -- New York World-Telegram And Sun

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## Customer Reviews

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one of the best films you will ever see. acting superb all around. story based around darwins theory and the "monkey trial" for the teacher who dared to teach the theory .tracy was at his best, but fredric march should have gotten an oscar for his performance... and gene kelly took back seat to no one, and he wasnt even dancing.... religious or not, you will enjoy this film

Excellent play revealing our society and how we face and don't face, champion and ridicule bigotry. It's less a question of science and more a question of the right to think for yourself, to make up your own mind.

This is a good clear transfer in the 1.66:1 aspect ratio. Depending on your TV set, you might be able to expand your picture to fill the screen at 1.85:1, which is also perfectly watchable due to the way the picture was composed when it was photographed. This film used to be shown on NBC's "Saturday Night At The Movies" now and then. Amazingly, it was less controversial in 1960 than it is today! For classic movie buffs, you will see many first-class actors doing outstanding performances. Remember, this is a fictionalized version of the Scopes trial -- but much of the courtroom dialogue was taken from court transcripts. This is a must-see!

I have seen this movie many times over. The dialog is extremely engaging between the prosecuting attorney (March) who portrays in real life William Jennings Bryan and (Matthew Brady in the movie) and Spencer Tracey who portrays the real life atheist defense attorney Clarence Darrow (Henry Drummond in the movie) arguing a case about a law that forbid the teachings of evolution by Charles Darwin. This film should be viewed by all who have the capacity to think and reason for themselves and who question the teachings and extreme interpretations of the bible. Enjoy the movie...

One of the great classics of filmdom. Writing, acting, directing, cinematography are all superb. I've watched it many times and every single time I am blown away by the quality of the acting and the way Stanley Kramer makes you think you are in that hot, stuffy courtroom with everyone else. I just

watched it again a few days ago, and seems even more on point than the last time. We're still fighting the fundies and anti-science bunch. As for the streaming experience it sucked. I'm still getting poor quality movies on - it kind of looks like it switches from HD1080 to 420 or even 240 and back again. Basically unviewable. I've dealt with COX, Samsung, and and everyone blames everyone else and don't know anything and have never heard of the problem. That is BS, and I think it must be because I can stream everything else, including NETFLIX perfectly. Luckily I still have the DVD I bought years ago, so I popped it in and it ran perfectly and was bright and crisp as ever. Seems my streaming might be affected by some sort of Net Neutrality issue. I'd love to hear from anyone else who has this problem.

INHERIT THE WIND is a highly dramatized take on the infamous "Scopes Monkey Trial" of 1925. As history, it takes dramatic license to a degree that is perhaps irresponsible, slanting the entire affair so far against one side that the audience is never really permitted to make up its own mind; as pure entertainment, however, it is one of the better films you will ever see. INHERIT is ostensibly the story of smalltown schoolteacher Bertram Cates (Dick York), who is arrested for teaching Darwinism in his classroom in violation of Tennessee state law. Cates' arrest comes at the urging of fire-eating preacher Rev. Jeremiah Brown (Claude Akins), who is the father of Cates fiancée Rachel (Donna Anderson), and has intensely personal reasons for wanting Cates clapped in irons. If this sounds a bit like a soap opera, rest assured that the movie is really about the courtroom duel between the prosecutor, a fundamentalist ex-presidential candidate named Matthew Harrison Brady (Frederic March), who believes that the Bible is the Revealed Word of God, and Cates' defense attorney, a cantankerous ACLU lawyer named Henry Drummond (Spenser Tracy), whose only gods are "science and reason." Stirring the pot is an almost unbelievably cynical reporter named E.K. Hornbeck (Gene Kelly), who seems to believe in absolutely nothing at all. The stakes may seem minor, but as the trial goes on it's clear that what is at issue here is where the church ends and the state begins, and in a country whose constitution expressly forbids the establishment of a state religion, that's pretty big potatoes. INHERIT was shot in 1960, but because it is a period piece and filmed in B & W, it has a feeling which belongs more to the 40s or early 50s, to wit: intensely dramatic scenes alternate with tension-relieving light comedy, the acting is marvelous, and the dialogue just snaps, with many of the best lines going to Kelly, who gets to say cheeky things like, "I may be rancid butter, but I'm on your side of the bread", delivered with an almost Satanic smirk of total mischief. Courtroom dramas are a dime a dozen, but the really good ones stand out because of good chemistry, and you'd be hard-pressed to find better chemistry than that which occurs

between the grouchy but devoted Tracy and the pompous but good-hearted March. Both characters sincerely believe they are doing right, a fact which has an element of tragedy to it and heightens the overall drama. Now, I happened to live in York County, Pennsylvania, when, eighty years after the real Monkey Trial, another one (of sorts) took place in nearby Dover, and it never ceases to amaze me how timely this film remains. The war between the secular and the religious, between science and faith, continues to flare up, but this was the decisive battle. It is true that from a factual standpoint this movie has only a slight relation to the what happened- the depiction of the townsfolk as torch-wielding religious fanatics is unfair (they found the trial mainly an opportunity to separate reporters from their money), and the teacher upon whom Cates is based instigated his own arrest at the behest of the ACLU, which, whatever good it may have done, has the ugly habit of using legal technicalities to short-circuit majority rule. Still, taken as pure entertainment, this film is gold, and I highly recommend it.

This is a wonderful movie based on the Scopes monkey trial. Spencer Tracy and Frederick March go at it like two bull elephants and it makes for riveting viewing. Highly recommend as an addition to your DVD collection.

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