The Fatal Woman: Sources Of Male Anxiety In American Film Noir, 1941-1991

by James F. Maxfield

The year 1941 in film involved some significant events. January 17 – Gone with the Wind goes into general release after touring in a roadshow version during 1940. Becoming a cultural phenomena, it sold an estimated 60 million tickets in 1941 alone. Adjusted for inflation with numerous rereleases, it remains the highest grossing domestic film of all time with $1.8 billion. May 1 – Citizen Kane, consistently rated as one of the greatest films of all time, was released.
The Killers is a 1946 American film noir. It is based in part on the short story of the same name by Ernest Hemingway. The film was directed by Robert Siodmak and features Burt Lancaster in his screen debut, as well as Ava Gardner, Edmond O'Brien, and Sam Levene. Lancaster claimed he was unhappy with the way Siodmak and Fuchs had reworked Hellinger's idea of a racetrack heist into a fatal romantic triangle.