



# Billy Wilder

By Noel Simsolo

Cahiers du Cinema. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Billy Wilder, Noel Simsolo, Billy Wilder (USA, 1906-2002) is an undisputed master of American comedy, taking situation comedy to the edge of the absurd in *Some Like it Hot* (1959). But he also made pessimistic melodramas such as *Sunset Boulevard* (1950), in which Gloria Swanson gives a moving performance as a fallen star, and a few fine examples of film noir, such as *Double Indemnity* (1944) et *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957). Wilder worked with the greatest stars and his filmography is studded with classic scenes, including Marilyn Monroe playing the banjo in *Some Like it Hot* or holding her billowing skirt over the subway outlet in *Seven Year Itch* (1955), Jack Lemmon draining spaghetti with a tennis racket in *The Apartment* (1960) and Shirley MacLaine as a Parisian streetwalker in *Irma la Douce* (1963). His humour is often incisive and his vision of the world somewhat cynical, but all his characters experience a moment of truth and, for this reason, Billy Wilder is primarily a great moralist.



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