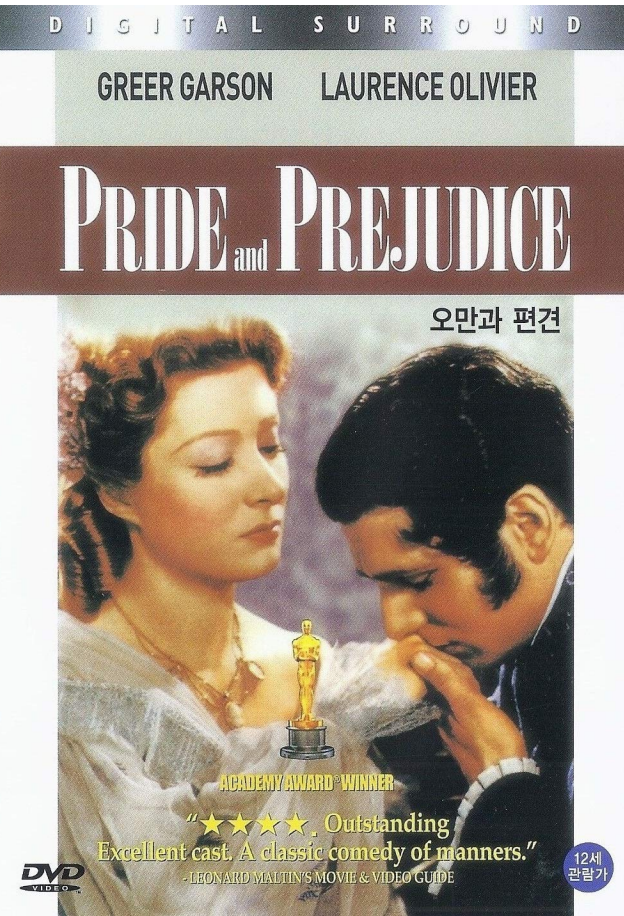
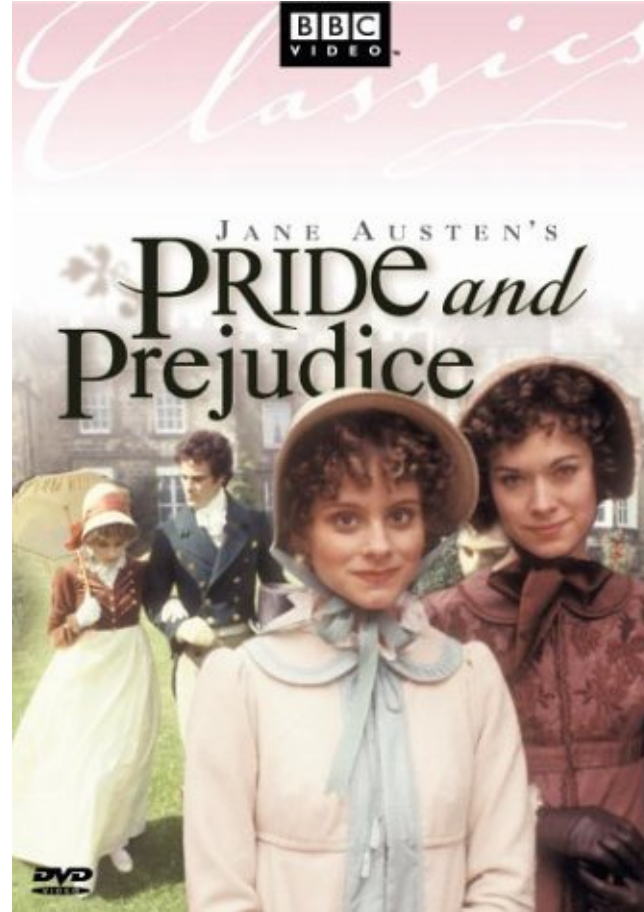


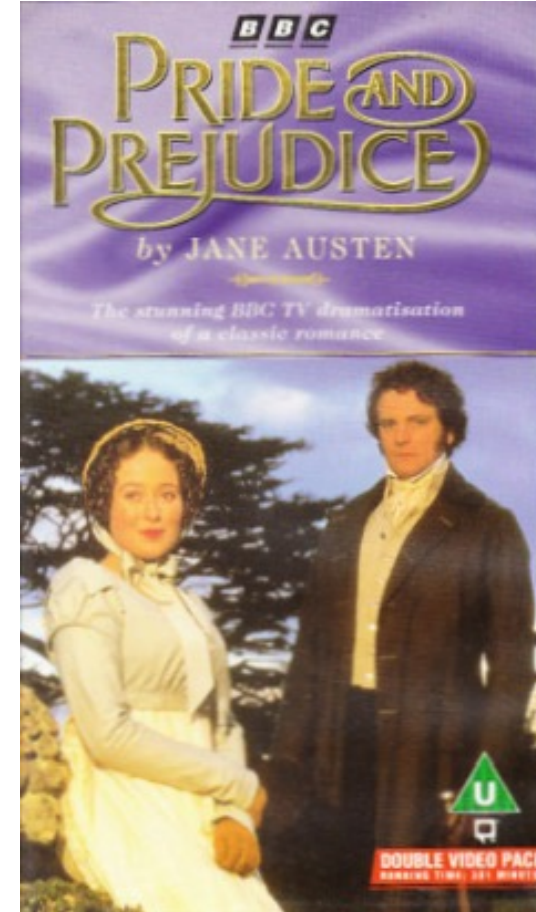
Film and TV Screen Adaptations of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*



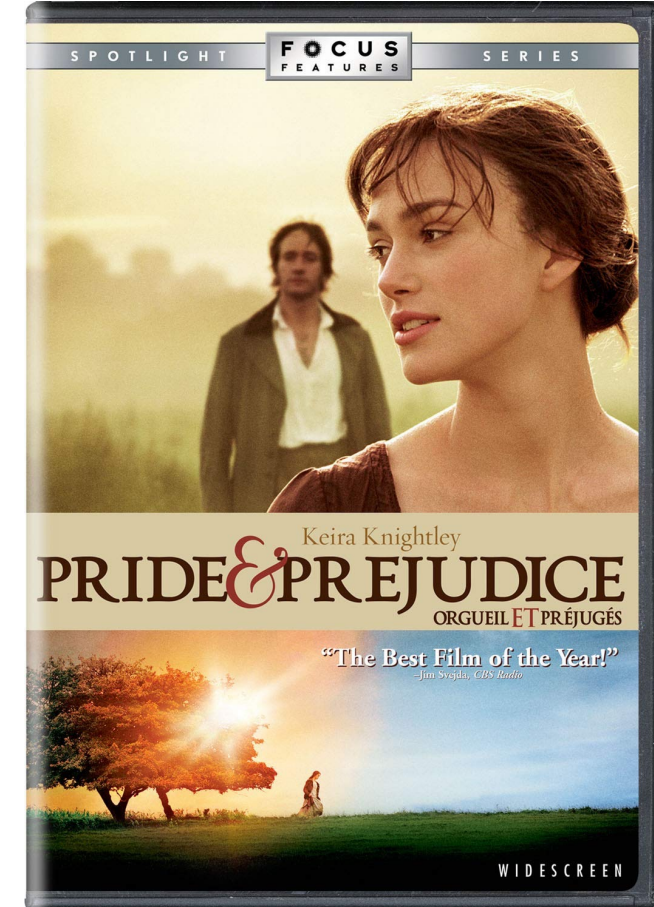
1940 movie, 117 min.
Laurence Olivier
Greer Garson



1980 BBC mini-series, 267 min.
Elizabeth Garvie
David Rintoul



1995 mini-series, 344 min.
Colin Firth
Jennifer Ehle



2005 movie, 128 min.
Keira Knightley
Matthew MacFadyen

For a discussion of pre-1970 television productions never recorded, lost, destroyed or with limited availability, see historian Rainier Wels' article in *Persuasions* at

<https://jasna.org/publications-2/persuasions-online/volume-39-no-1/pride-and-prejudice-in-black-and-white-first-and-last-impressions-19381967>



1. Which was NOT a tagline for the movie?

- ❖ Bachelors Beware! Five Gorgeous Beauties on a Mad-Cap Manhunt!
- ❖ A Literary Classic Comes to the Big Screen!
- ❖ The Gayest Comedy Hit of the Screen!

2. The screenplay was adapted from Helen Jerome's 1935 stageplay by Jane Murfin and...

- ❖ John Ford
- ❖ John Huston
- ❖ Aldous Huxley

3. The movie won an Oscar for

- ❖ Best acting, female lead (Greer Garson)
- ❖ Costumes
- ❖ Art Direction, Black & White





4. Which has NOT been offered as explanation for the off-period costuming?

- ❖ The costumer pleaded for something more opulent.
- ❖ Classical lines of Regency gowns were considered too Greek.
- ❖ Limited budgets made it necessary to repurpose *Gone with the Wind* costumes.

5. What other historical inaccuracy occurs in the film?

- ❖ Gummed envelopes.
- ❖ Darcy's use of the expression "Call it quits."
- ❖ Elizabeth's performance of Mendelssohn's song "On Wings of Song"

6. The movie was shot in black and white because...

- ❖ *Gone with the Wind* producer David Selznick had commandeered all available technicolor reels.
- ❖ The director insisted it was more artistic.
- ❖ The producer wanted an old-fashioned look and feel.



7. What daily ritual was adopted during shooting of the film?

- ❖ Afternoon tea.
- ❖ Morning tai chi.
- ❖ Post shooting martinis.

8. Started in 1936, filming was delayed because of...

- ❖ Outbreak of World War II hostilities
- ❖ Death of the director.
- ❖ Availability of the cast.

9. Mr. Collins' was portrayed as a librarian because...

- ❖ The Production Code forbade portraying clergy in a negative light.
- ❖ American audiences disliked the Church of England.
- ❖ Actor Melville Cooper was Jewish.



10. What other Jane did Maureen O'Sullivan portray?

- ❖ Jane Porter (Tarzan)
- ❖ Jane Eyre
- ❖ Jane Seymore

11. Which actors were considered for the role of Mr. Darcy?

- ❖ Cary Grant.
- ❖ Clark Gable.
- ❖ Robert Taylor



12. MGM head Louis B. Mayer nixed Vivian Leigh in the lead because...

- ❖ She demanded too much money.
- ❖ Her semi-public affair with Laurence Olivier made for bad PR.
- ❖ The costumes didn't fit and would have had to be reworked.

13. Laurence Olivier complained that...

- ❖ He was not consulted on publicity photos.
- ❖ The costumes got more attention than the actors.
- ❖ Greer Garson had more and better lines than he did.

Answers and Notes:

- 1. Movie Tagline** — NOT the reference to a literary classic. It was shot as a comedy and made the American Film Institute's list of top movies nominated for top 100 in two categories: funniest and greatest love stories.
- 2. Screenplay** — Aldous Huxley (after a string of 9 other screenwriters).
- 3. Oscar** — Art Direction
- 4. Costuming** — NOT an anti-Greek thing. A 1940 report estimated wardrobe expense as probably exceeding \$75,000 (over \$1 million in 2022). In addition to use of *Gone with the Wind* costumes used on background characters, Wilkes plantation set pieces appear in the ball where Elizabeth excels at archery.
- 5. Historical Inaccuracies** — All three answers are correct. One piece true to the period was use of *Flow Gently Sweet Afton* written in 1786 with lyrics by Robert Burns.
- 6. Shot in B&W** — Because the *Gone with the Wind* producer had hogged all the technicolor reels.
- 7. Daily Ritual** — 4 p.m. tea – due to number of Brits working on the film, which was going to be shot in England until MGM closed its offices due to the war.
- 8. Delay** — The death of director Irving Thalberg, who had purchased the Broadway screen play on behalf of MGM for \$50,000. Robert Z. Leonard took over.
- 9. Mr. Collins** — Of the Code. Phil Silvers did a screen test for Mr. Collins; It was a joke by executives who passed the footage around laughing at his heavy New York accent. He called it perhaps “the funniest 3 minutes “I’ve ever done.”
- 10. Maureen O’Sullivan** — Me Tarzan, She Jane. Marsha Hunt (Mary Bennet) was the last surviving cast member when she died in September 2022 at age 104. Blacklisted in 50s, happily married 40 years, wrote a fashion book “The Way We Wore,” dedicated United Nations and other non-profits
- 11. Mr. Darcy** — All three answers are correct.
- 12. Vivian Leigh** — The affair. After P&P, Olivier took a 12-year hiatus from Hollywood, married Leigh and lived in England.
- 13. Olivier** — Attention given the costumes. He also complained about key scenes being omitted and said “I was very unhappy with the picture. It was difficult to make Darcy into anything more than an unattractive-looking prig.” and “Darling Greer seemed to me all wrong as Elizabeth.””

