

# The Prologue Society

invites you to attend

## Lunch with Victoria Riskin

October 15, 2019  
12-2pm (doors open at 11:30am)

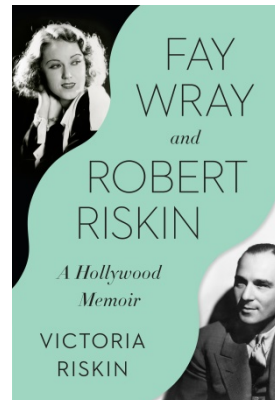
### University of Miami Newman Alumni Center

Multipurpose Room  
6200 San Amaro Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33146

*\$55 per person; Pre-registration by October 11<sup>th</sup> is required  
Complimentary valet parking is available & recommended  
Cancellations require three business days' notice for credit / refund  
Guest are welcome to attend one event per full season as non-members*



Photo credit: Olivia Drake



Publisher: Other Press

### **Fay Wray and Robert Riskin: A Hollywood Memoir**

*A Hollywood love story, a Hollywood memoir, a dual biography of two of Hollywood's most famous figures, whose golden lives were lived at the center of Hollywood's golden age, written by their daughter, an acclaimed writer and producer.*

Fay Wray was most famous as the woman—the blonde in a diaphanous gown—who captured the heart of the mighty King Kong, the twenty-five-foot, sixty-ton gorilla, as he placed her, nestled in his eight-foot hand, on the ledge of the 102-story Empire State Building, putting Wray at the height of New York's skyline and cinematic immortality.

Wray starred in more than 120 pictures opposite Hollywood's biggest stars—Spencer Tracy, Gary Cooper (*The Legion of the Condemned*, *The First Kiss*, *The Texan*, *One Sunday Afternoon*), Clark Gable, William Powell, and Charles Boyer; from cowboy stars Hoot Gibson and Art Accord to Ronald Colman (*The Unholy Garden*), Claude Rains, Ralph Richardson, and Melvyn Douglas. She was directed by the masters of the age, from Fred Niblo, Erich von Stroheim (*The Wedding March*), and Mauritz Stiller (*The Street of Sin*) to Leo McCarey, William Wyler, Gregory La Cava, “Wild Bill” William Wellman, Merian C. Cooper (*The Four Feathers*, *King Kong*), Josef von Sternberg (*Thunderbolt*), Dorothy Arzner (*Behind the Make-Up*), Frank Capra (*Dirigible*), Michael Curtiz (*Doctor X*), Raoul Walsh (*The Bowery*), and Vincente Minnelli.

The book's—and Wray's—counterpart: Robert Riskin, considered one of the greatest screenwriters of all time. Academy Award-winning writer (nominated for five), producer, ten-year-long collaborator with Frank Capra on such pictures as *American Madness*, *It Happened One Night*, *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, *Lost Horizon*, and *Meet John Doe*, hailed by many, among them F. Scott Fitzgerald, as “among the best screenwriters in the business.” Riskin wrote women characters who were smart, ornery, sexy, always resilient, as he perfected what took full shape in *It Happened One Night*, the Riskin character, male or female—breezy, self-made, streetwise, optimistic, with a sense of humor that is subtle and sure.

Fay Wray and Robert Riskin lived large lives, finding each other after establishing their artistic selves and after each had had many romantic attachments—Wray, an eleven-year-long difficult marriage and a fraught affair with Clifford Odets, and Riskin, a series of romances with, among others, Carole Lombard, Glenda Farrell, and Loretta Young.

Here are Wray's and Riskin's lives, their work, their fairy-tale marriage that ended so tragically. Here are their dual, quintessential American lives, ultimately and blissfully intertwined.

**Victoria Riskin** adapted Willa Cather's *My Antonia* for television and was a producer of Carson McCullers's *The Member of the Wedding* as well as *The Last Best Year*, based on her years as a psychologist. Riskin was president of the Writers Guild of America West and served for twelve years as a director of Human Rights Watch. She lives on Martha's Vineyard with her husband, the writer David W. Rintels.

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ThePrologueSociety.org • ThePrologueSociety@Gmail.com • 786-529-0990  
18495 S. Dixie Hwy., #373 Miami FL 33157