

Pot o' Gold (film)

Pot o' Gold is a 1941 American romantic musical comedy film starring James Stewart and Paulette Goddard, directed by George Marshall,^[1] and based on the radio series *Pot o' Gold*. The film was released April 3, 1941, eight months before the NBC radio series came to an end. Paulette Goddard's singing voice was dubbed by Vera Van. The film was known as *The Golden Hour* in the United Kingdom and was re-released in 1946 by Astor Pictures as *Jimmy Steps Out*.

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Background

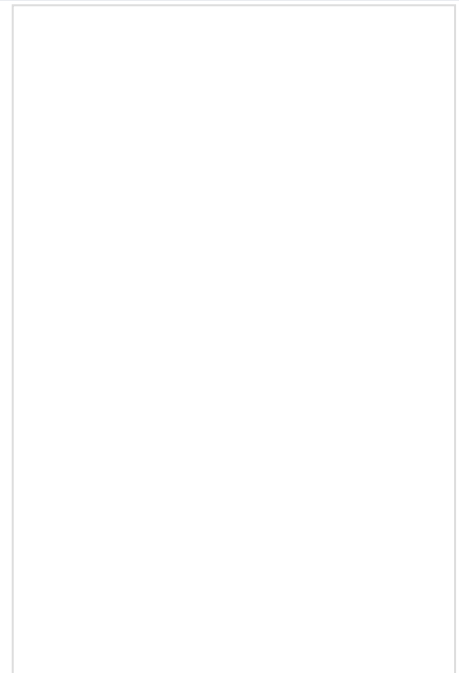
Pot o' Gold was radio's first big-money giveaway program, garnering huge ratings within four weeks of its 1939 debut. The program's success prompted production of the film. The premise of the radio program, created by Ed Byron, was that any person who picked up the telephone when host Horace Heidt called would automatically win \$1000. Phone numbers were chosen by three spins on the Wheel of Fortune: (1) choice of phone directory, (2) page number and (3) the line on the page. The series ran on NBC from September 26, 1939 to December 23, 1941 and later a new show by the same name from October 2, 1946 to March 26, 1947 on ABC.

Plot

The film tells of a couple romantically involved despite family feuds.

Jimmy Haskell (James Stewart) is the former owner of a defunct music store. His uncle, C.J. Haskell (Charles Winninger), dislikes music and has long wanted Jimmy to join him in his health food business. Jimmy only agrees after his music store is closed. When Jimmy arrives at his uncle's place, he is confronted by members of

Pot o' Gold



1941 Theatrical poster

Directed by	George Marshall
Produced by	James Roosevelt
Written by	Andrew Bennison Monte Brice
Based on	<i>Pot O' Gold</i> 1939--1941; 1946 radio series by Robert Brilmayer Haydn Roth Evans
Starring	James Stewart Paulette Goddard Horace Heidt Charles Winninger Mary Gordon

the McCorkle family, who play in Heidt's band and often practice outside C.J.'s business. As C.J. hates music, he is infuriated and attempts to stop the band using the police. Unsuccessful, he is thrown a tomato by Jimmy, unintentionally. Jimmy is then made a hero by the band and the McCorkles, who do not know his true identity. Molly McCorkle (Paulette Goddard) falls in love with him.

Music by	Louis Forbes
Cinematography	Hal Mohr
Edited by	Lloyd Nosler
Production company	James Roosevelt Productions
Distributed by	United Artists
Release date	April 3, 1941
Running time	86 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

James Stewart and Paulette Goddard

When Jimmy substitutes for C.J. on the Haskell radio program, two band members find out his identity. They work together to devise a scheme to persuade C.J. to take a vacation. In the meantime, Jimmy takes over the operation of the business and invites Heidt's band to play on the radio. Molly learns Jimmy's identity, and in anger, she says the Haskell program will give away \$1000 every week. Jimmy has no choice but to find a way to hand out the cash, and a federal investigator reminds him that using lottery to give the 1000 dollars is illegal.

Jimmy plans to use phone books and a roulette-style game to find winners. The Haskell program grows immensely popular and attracts lucrative advertising contracts. This reconciles the Haskell and McCorkles, paving the way for the marriage between Jimmy and Molly.

[Play media](#)
[The full film](#)

Cast

- [James Stewart](#) as James Hamilton "Jimmy" Haskell
- [Paulette Goddard](#) as Molly McCorkle
- [Horace Heidt](#) as Himself
- [Charles Winninger](#) as Charles "C.J." Haskell
- [Mary Gordon](#) as Mom McCorkle
- [Frank Melton](#) as Jasper Backus
- [Jed Prouty](#) as J.K. Louderman
- [Charles Arnt](#) as Parks (butler)
- [Dick Hogan](#) as Willie McCorkle
- [James Burke](#) as Police Lt. Grady
- [Donna Wood](#) as Donna McCorkle
- [Larry Cotton](#) as Larry Cotton, Vocalist
- [Art Carney](#) as Radio Announcer

Soundtrack

- Various characters - "Hi, Cy, What's A-Cookin'?" (Written by [Henry Russell](#) and [Louis Forbes](#))
- Paulette Goddard (dubbed by Vera Van) with Horace Heidt & His Musical Knights - "Pete the Piper" (Written by Henry Russell)
- James Stewart - "When Johnny Toots His Horn" (Written by [Hy Heath](#) and [Fred Rose](#))
- Horace Heidt & His Musical Knights - "A Knife, a Fork and a Spoon" (Written by [Dave Franklin](#))
- Larry Cotton with Horace Heidt & His Musical Knights - "Do You Believe in Fairy Tales?" (Music by [Vee Lawnhurst](#), lyrics by [Mack David](#))
- Paulette Goddard (dubbed by Vera Van) with Horace Heidt & His Musical Knights - "Broadway Caballero" (Written by Henry Russell)

Reception

Stewart later referred to the film as the worst one he ever appeared in.

Nine years later, Stewart did another movie about a big-money radio show, *The Jackpot* (1950).

References

1. Maltin, Leonard; Sader, Luke (2008), *Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide: 2009 Edition* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=6EgPDierNGUC&pg=PA1089>), Penguin, p. 1089, ISBN 0452289785.

External links

- *Pot o' Gold* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0034055/>) on IMDb
- *Pot o' Gold* (https://archive.org/details/pot_o_gold) is available for free download at the Internet Archive
- *Pot o' Gold* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v38851>) at AllMovie
- *Pot o' Gold* (<http://www.tcm.turner.com/tcmdb/title/title.jsp?stid=19182>) at the TCM Movie Database
- *Pot o' Gold* (<https://catalog.afi.com/Catalog/moviedetails/26871>) at the American Film Institute Catalog

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