The Many Hats of Robert Altman: A Life in Cinema

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Robert and Kathryn Altman made lasting friendships among the University of Michigan faculty during their stay here in 1982. One of them was with the Pulitzer-Prize winning composer William Bolcom, who had been so impressed by Altman’s work on *The Rake’s Progress* that he invited the director to work with him on two operas: the drama *McTeague*, commissioned by the Lyric Opera of Chicago and premiered in 1992, and the comedy adapted from Altman’s film *A Wedding* (1978) again for Chicago in 2004. In both cases Altman directed and was co-librettist with Arnold Weinstein.