

## **LOVE IS A FALLACY**

- Before students watch the film in class, it is suggested that they read the essay Love is a Fallacy by Max Schulman. The complete text is readily available on the web. Then it is possible to have students read the essay aloud in class, playing the three parts: the unnamed university student, his roommate Petey Bellows, and the young woman Polly Espy. Have students identify the various fallacies discussed in the essay. You can quiz students to make sure they know what each fallacy means.
- Finally, watch the film in class with your students. Viewing the film will probably raise questions about the writer's portrayal of the female character, Polly Espy. Does Max Schulman stereotype women as being silly and stupid? How would the film have been perceived if the Polly Espy character had been teaching fallacies to the young man?
- As a follow-up activity, students can present their own examples of the fallacies they learned in the essay and other students can try and guess the type of fallacy the examples typify. Students can be asked to research other fallacies not discussed in the essay. Last, but not least, students can check their own essays for fallacious reasoning.