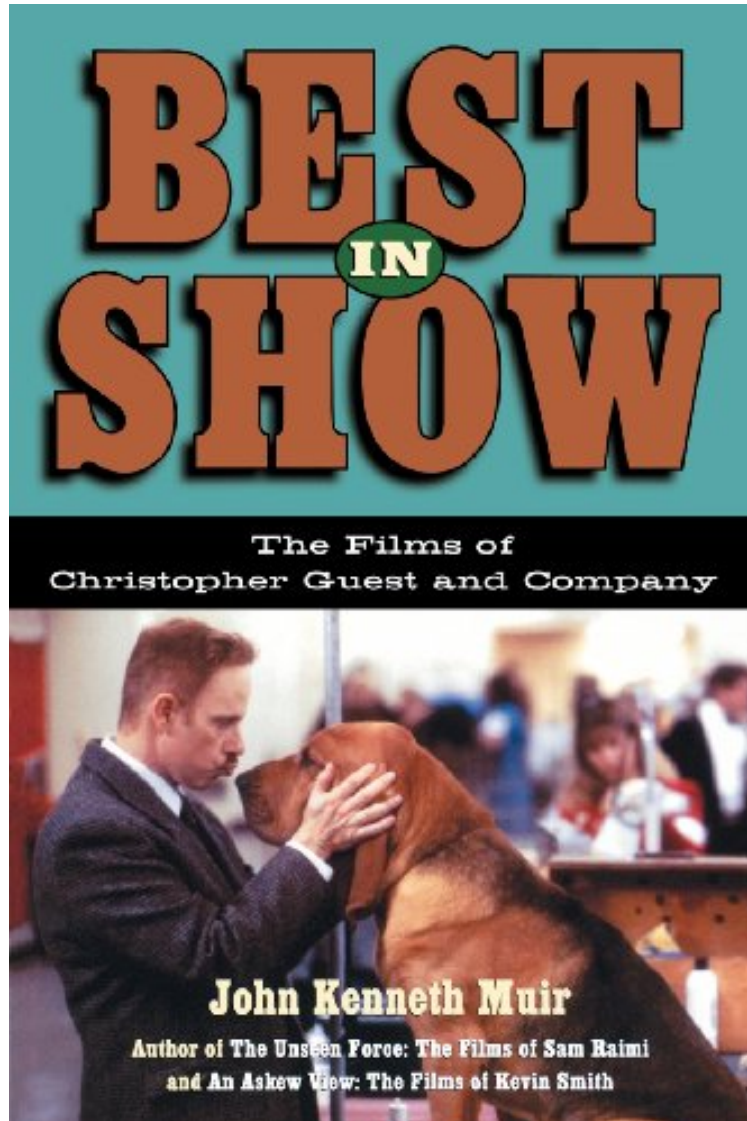


(Read now) Best in Show: The Films of Christopher Guest and Company

Best in Show: The Films of Christopher Guest and Company

John Kenneth Muir

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1572169 in Books 2004-11-01 2004-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .59 x 5.98l, 1.01 #File Name: 1557836094240 pages | File size: 35.Mb

John Kenneth Muir : Best in Show: The Films of Christopher Guest and Company before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Best in Show: The Films of Christopher Guest and Company:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Interesting insight, but reads like a long editorial. By Hoju Koolander This book has some great stories from the cast and details about deleted scenes that are not on the DVD of the films, but contains a lot of filler. For fans of Christopher Guest himself, you get a very detailed history of his performing career, although Guest himself was not interviewed for the book, he speaks through quotes from magazine

interviews. And that is how the book reads, like a long magazine article. For much of the book the author just recaps the major plot points of *Waiting for Guffman*, *Best In Show* and *A Mighty Wind*. The main opinions/anecdotes of the films come primarily from: Harry Shearer (a lot of Harry Shearer), Bob Balaban, Fred Willard, Deb Theaker, Michael Hitchcock and surprisingly June Chadwick (Jeanine from *Spinal Tap*) who has yet to be in an actual Christopher Guest film, but is oft quoted concerning improv acting. The most entertaining moments of the book come from the explanations of bits that were cut from the films, especially from Fred Willard who seems very disappointed that many of his bits went unused. An OK read that's not expensive, not a long book so it's good for an afternoon read. Worth the money, if you are a Guest completist. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Amy S. A really fun read, you can tell the author is a fan and did their research. Thanks Mr. Muir!

(Applause Books). *Best in Show* is the first in-depth look at the method behind film director and actor Christopher Guest's madness and genius. John Kenneth Muir focuses his attention on the acclaimed Guest-directed trilogy of what some call "mockumentaries": *Waiting for Guffman*, *Best in Show* and *A Mighty Wind*. In these films Guest has escorted rapt audiences into the purportedly real worlds of a small-town theatrical company, dog show competition, and folk music festival. Muir also details the events that lead to Rob Reiner's influential and legendary *This Is Spinal Tap*, which *Rolling Stone* called the best rock and roll movie of all time, and in which Guest played the part of guitarist Nigel Tufnel. Much of *Best in Show* exemplifies the unique process by which Guest directs films. He employs a common repertory company, improvises scenes often without any rehearsal, and does not use any screenplay with dialogue, instead following a detailed outline often co-authored with his ace actor/writer Eugene Levy. Company members that have been interviewed for this book include Fred Willard, Harry Shearer, Bob Balaban and Michael Hitchcock. Guest's influences *Saturday Night Live*, *National Lampoon* as well as his more conventional comedies, such as *The Big Picture* and *Almost Heroes*, are studied. *Best in Show* is general enough to bring new fans to the table, yet detailed enough to satisfy the most in-the-know Guest fan and film student. A complete filmography with Guest's directing, acting and writing credits is included, as is the appendix, "You Know You're in a Christopher Guest Film When ..." Guest once commented, "I am drawn to people who have dreams that are slightly out of reach." Now, thanks to John Kenneth Muir, the fascinating world of Christopher Guest and company is substantially more within reach.

From *Publishers Weekly* Master of the "mockumentaries" *Waiting for Guffman* (1997) and *A Mighty Wind* (2003), Guest is an original, and Muir, who has written books on the films of Kevin Smith, Sam Raimi and others, does a superb job of illuminating Guest's qualities as person, performer and director. Responsible for the definitive rock and roll spoof, 1984's *This Is Spinal Tap*, Guest emerges as an honest, affectionate satirist, claiming, "I am drawn to people who have dreams that are slightly out of reach." Muir points out his subject's talents as clarinet, mandolin and guitar player, and traces his career from off-Broadway appearances in Jules Feiffer's 1971 *Little Murders* and 1973's *Lemmings*, a show that also starred Chevy Chase, John Belushi and Stockard Channing. Guest, son of a CBS records executive and husband of actor Jamie Lee Curtis, was heavily influenced by his early idol, Peter Sellers. The book's knowledgeable study of Guest's filmmaking methods includes details of editing "eighty hours of film for a ninety-minute movie"; conducting handheld, relatively static interviews; and leaving "live background" noise on the soundtrack. The great value of reading about this quirky creator is absorbing his message, which applies to moviemakers and laymen alike: blaze your own path and have enough self-belief to buck the tide of conventional opinion. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.