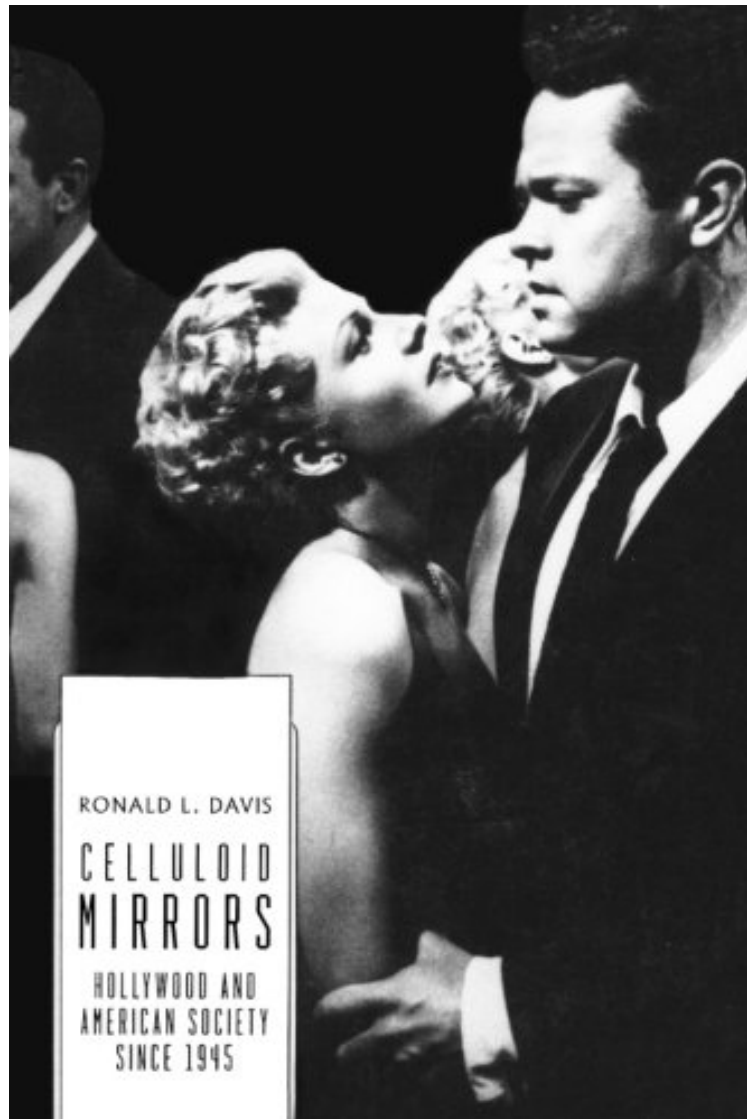


[PDF] Celluloid Mirrors: Hollywood and American Society Since 1945 (Harbrace Books on America Since 1945)

Celluloid Mirrors: Hollywood and American Society Since 1945 (Harbrace Books on America Since 1945)

Ronald L. Davis

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Ronald L. Davis : Celluloid Mirrors: Hollywood and American Society Since 1945 (Harbrace Books on America Since 1945) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Celluloid Mirrors: Hollywood and American Society Since 1945 (Harbrace Books on America Since 1945):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. perfect condition.By MateoDLRJust as described, perfect

condition.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy aj salvasThis one is excellent!!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Informative but oddly confusing too--By Christopher W. Chase"Celluloid Mirrors: Hollywood and American Society since 1945," is a small, dense, compact book designed to give a concise history of the relationship between Hollywood and American culture since 1945. The book does is premised on a statement in the Preface: "During the decades since World War II, the entertainment industry has reflected shifting American values and business practices." While not arguing for this proposition in the formal sense, this guiding assertion is an accurate reflection of the tone and tenor of this book.Davis's intent is to sketch a broad series of trends that have affected Hollywood and its relationship to American culture. Most of these are fairly well known-the union strikes of 1945-46, the blacklisting of writers during the time of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). Some of these are less well known-the rise of conglomeration in the industry, the advent of Norman Lear's rise in the television community of the early 1970's. All of these trends though, are described in detail and with enough contextual information to anchor film and television trends to issues of larger American culture. This is not to say that major issues are not skipped, such as the Cold War itself or the changing (?) roles of women on television.More so than the particular cultural trends, though, is Davis's need to provide names and brief descriptions of movies and television shows that he believes had the most impact and relevancy to his discussion. Thus, his book reads more like a catalog of different movies, and when they were made. In this way Celluloid Mirrors functions well as an introductory text for those who wish to engage movies and American culture at a basic level.On the other hand, the book suffers from two main problems. First, the author often outlines a chapter under different subject headings, including some that do not always flow together with other subjects in the same chapter, and at the end of each chapter, a conclusion is offered that rarely attempts to reprise the material at hand or link it to upcoming material. Because of this, the book is difficult to follow a get a sense of overall, even though it is easy to understand from page to page. Secondly, the author has a distinct tendency to project a narrative of moral decline on American society, a narrative that with exceptions (especially in the 80's) paints a steadily decaying picture of American society. At the same time, Davis sometimes claims that this represents a form of maturity for movies and television, most notably in the discussion of Norman Lear's situation comedies. However he is not consistent with his descriptions, and the odd nature of the chapters' internal economy of meaning makes it unable to be describes as hermeneutic tension, outright contradiction, or simply poor editing.Davis's book is not bad, but it needs to be read through more than once (for clarity's sake) , and needs some better organization before it can be classified as truly helpful.Christopher W. Chase, PhD Fellow , Michigan St. Univ.

CELLULOID MIRRORS is an exciting new survey of major developments in American filmmaking since 1945. Coverage includes changes in film content, alterations in the business structure of Hollywood, shifts in theater design, the impact of television, and Hollywood's enduring mystique. This supplement is appropriate for a variety of courses, including American History Survey courses, Modern America History courses, American Cultural History, Film History, and Popular Culture.

Preface. 1. The Decline of the Big Studios. 2. A Search for New Markets. 3. Tangles of Conglomerates. 4. Popular Culture to Counterculture and Back. 5. Movie Palaces, Shopping Malls, and Multiplexes. 6. Return to Entertainment. 7. The Small Screen. 8. Hollywood's Enduring Mystique. Bibliography.