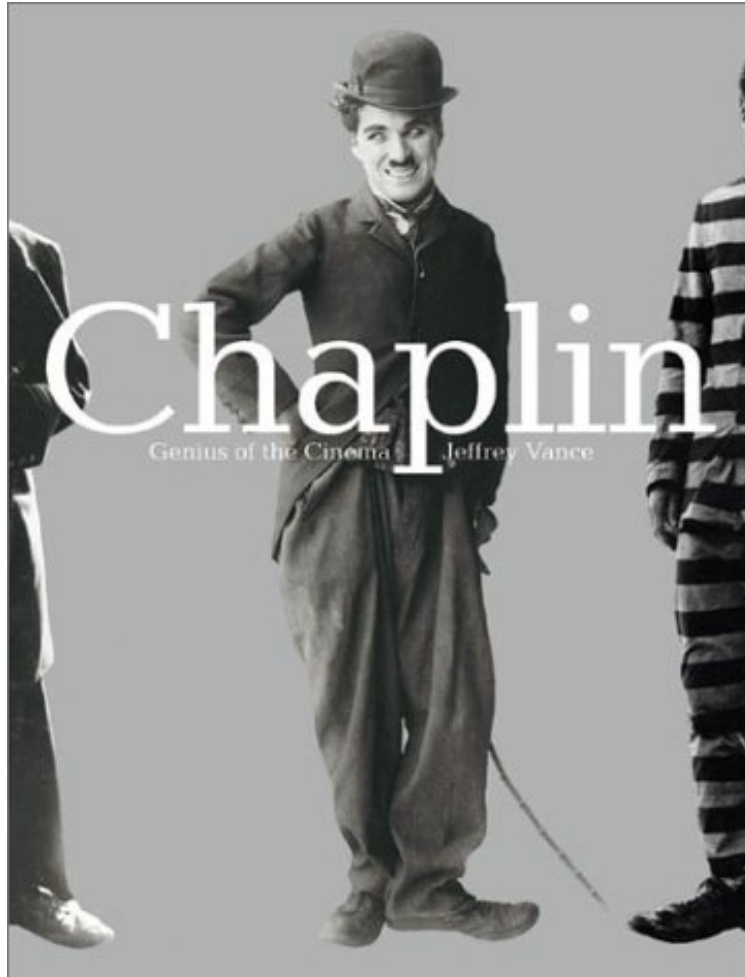


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Chaplin: Genius Of The Cinema

Jeffrey Vance

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Jeffrey Vance : Chaplin: Genius Of The Cinema before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chaplin: Genius Of The Cinema:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Christina L HunterPerfect! My son enjoyed!!!!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy William P. TuckA delightful addition to my collection of Chapliana, 1950 onwards.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Amazing life of ChaplinBy SinnyCharlie Chaplin apparently had one of the most interesting lives I've ever heard of. This book does a great job describing the good and the bad about Chaplin and his entire life and career in the cinematic spotlight. There are tons and tons of pictures. A must read for any Chaplin or silent film fan.

A noted film historian and expert on silent film comedy presents an in-depth, richly illustrated account of the life and career of the immortal Charlie Chaplin, drawing on material from the Chaplin family archives and tracing the life and

career of the legendary actor in five hundred photographs that capture Chaplin's seven decades of creative accomplishments.

From Publishers Weekly Using his complete access to the Chaplin Archives, film historian Vance creates a compelling portrait of the cinema's first international star: a moviemaker who blended comedy and pathos and whose most complex character was his own off-screen self. Vance, who helped Charlie Chaplin's ex-wife Lita Grey pen her memoirs and has co-authored biographies of silent-film comedy greats Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd, discerningly examines both Chaplin's groundbreaking work and the controversial man behind it. More of an encyclopedia than a biography-information from Chaplin's memoirs is frequently quoted-Vance's book shows admiration and sympathy for its subject, plus an extensive understanding of Chaplin's films, which are evaluated at length. But the most impressive and incisive material here are the photos, some of which have never been published before. Family portraits, film-set snapshots and frame enlargements from movies reveal a somber, often fragile-looking young man whose whole personality, not just his physical appearance, is altered when he's playing a role. As Chaplin's career soared in the early 20th century-along with his reputation as a perfectionist and his predilection for teenage girls-the photos capture his enlivening confidence. Later images reveal a man pained by legal battles and, eventually, a family patriarch at peace after marrying Eugene O'Neill's daughter, Oona. Comprehensive captions provide enough details to stand alone from the rest of the text. Released on the heels of a documentary about Chaplin and restored DVDs of his classic films, this book makes a sound introduction to, and study of, the great filmmaker's work. 500 bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Vance's *Buster Keaton Remembered* (2001) and *Harold Lloyd* [BKL My 15 02] are the finest photographic books ever published on their subjects, so it is not altogether surprising that his treatment of the greatest silent film comedian is a stunner. Still, that it contains so many superbly reproduced images from Chaplin's earliest years as an English touring-company member; so many documentary photos of Chaplin at work, at play, and in the public eye; and such wonderful rediscoveries as the great photojournalist W. Eugene Smith's expressionistic shots of Chaplin directing and acting in his greatest sound film, *Limelight*, as well as the expected wealth of movie production and publicity stills, is vastly impressive. Moreover, Vance writes considerably more about Chaplin than he did about Keaton and Lloyd combined. He discusses every film, including early shorts that are lost, and he illuminates Chaplin's working methods. If his prose remains workaday, it is always clear, even when he makes peculiar word choices and gets inconsequential facts wrong. Nevertheless, an absolutely essential book on this great filmmaker. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved " ...a deft amalgam of biography, film history, and criticism...a ravishing tribute to one of the cinema's true pioneers." -- *Film*, December 1, 2003 " ...a lavishly appointed book, and an excellent photo-biography." -- *The Independent*, December 1, 2003 " ...a significant addition to our knowledge of Chaplin...a revealing album." -- *Los Angeles Times*, November 1, 2003 " ...ravishing...we are lead most eloquently through the amazing story...the photographs are beautiful and informative, and the text scrupulously researched." -- Claire Bloom " ...straightforward, fair, rich in anecdote and detail...the definitive pictorial record of the artist's life and work." -- *The Australian*, December 1, 2003 " ...this gorgeous, unwieldy book succeeds in being several books...his [Vance's] judicious text is as fascinating as the photographs." -- *New York Times*, November 1, 2003