

Classics of the Silent Screen: A Pictorial Treasury

Joe Franklin

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Joe Franklin : Classics of the Silent Screen: A Pictorial Treasury before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Classics of the Silent Screen: A Pictorial Treasury:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Labour of Love for the Hollywood History (And Beverly Hillbillies) BuffBy Spencer ThompsonI really love this book. I once found it at Value Village, and I was quite upset when I recently found my copy had mildewed. As a result, I decided to order another one. Joe Franklin, the author, has a great passion for silent film which really makes it engaging. He compares Hollywood in the 10s and 20s with Hollywood in the 50s, when he wrote his book. There are two sections. One is on silent movies, and one is on silent movie stars. The section on the silent movies was interesting. Franklin remains clear-headed in discussing the faults and merits of each picture, though I must say I disagree with two of his conclusions. He praises The Birth of A Nation without the customary modern disclaimer, "Of course the film is horribly racist and caused a lot of trouble." He also praises the movie Sunrise, and his description made me go out rent it. I personally failed to find it artistic at all, and in fact I found it incredibly vapid. Still, his descriptions of the pictures are engaging and make stimulating reading. Of the films described, I have only seen Sunrise and City Lights, so I do not profess to be able to make any statements on the veracity of his conclusions. For instance, Vilma Banky was something like Grace Kelly. Leatrice Joy was something like Rosalind Russell. Norma Talmadge was something like Greer Garson. As a longtime Beverly Hillbillies fan, I really enjoyed being able to see so many of the silent stars they reference on the program. There are some interesting stories, such as the downfall of Mabel Normand. Since the book is a product of the 50s, those interested in studying

the homosexual culture in 1920s Hollywood will not find descriptions here. William Haines, Alla Nazimova, and other stars now famous for their homosexuality are covered, but one will not read about homosexuality here. Also, there is no mention of Clara Bow's mental illness. Students of race in film will doubtlessly appreciate his consideration of stars like Sessue Hayakawa and Ramon Navarro. Franklin notes stereotypes of blacks, Asians, Jews, the Roma in films, but he does not really discuss them in academic detail. Ultimately, *Classics of the Silent Screen* is not a soapbox about which to discuss 20s Hollywood's dirt (though he does discuss the stars' personal problems to some extent). Rather, it is a beautiful labour of love on Franklin's part and a fascinating look at the kinds of movies 20s Hollywood made. I urge anyone with an interest in Hollywood history to buy a copy of this wonderful book. Also, fans of *The Beverly Hillbillies* will surely delight, as I did, to read about William S. Hart, Gloria Swanson, Mary Pickford, Ramon Navarro, and other stars the show references.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. and the seller booksurf11 for providing me with a very good copy complete with dust jacket

By Albert Tapia

When I was a kid in the early 70s, I discovered this at my public library, sans dust jacket. Profiles of 50 movies and 75 actors. After reading about Lon Chaney and other silent films in "Famous Monsters," I went ape over this book. I must have re-read it dozens of times. Years later, I tried to find this at the library again, but it was missing. I eventually forgot the title, but remembered the format, certain stills, and even the font used for the numbers. When I read a post on Facebook, I was ecstatic: I had found a lost treasure! I went to immediately and ordered a copy. I want to publicly thank Facebook's Drawbridge Of The Castle for my rediscovery of this fond memory of my childhood, and the seller booksurf11 for providing me with a very good copy complete with dust jacket.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. A MUST HAVE

By STEVEN1350A

MUST HAVE FOR SILENT FILM LOVERS

Originally published: New York: Citadel Press, 1959.

About the Author

Joe Franklin (born 1929) is a radio and television personality from New York City who hosted the first television talk show. The show began in 1950 on WJZ-TV (later WABC-TV) and moved to WOR-TV (later WWOR-TV) from 1962 to 1993. Known as the "King of Nostalgia," Franklin's highly-rated show focused on old-time show business personalities. Franklin would delight his audience with trivia about the most obscure entertainers from out of the past, and equally unknown up-and-comers from the present. His guests ranged from novelty performers (Tiny Tim, another person obsessed with entertainment of the past, was a frequent guest) to popular mainstream show business entertainers like Bill Cosby. This show was often parodied by Billy Crystal during the 1984-1985 season of *Saturday Night Live*. After retiring from the TV show, Franklin concentrated on an all-night night radio show, playing old records on WOR-AM on Saturday evenings. He currently interviews celebrities on the Bloomberg Radio Network. Franklin interviewed over 100,000 guests during his 43 year TV run. These included five U.S. Presidents, and screen legends such as Charlie Chaplin, John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe and Cary Grant. An author, Franklin has written 23 books. He has starred as himself in countless films, notably "Ghostbusters" and "Broadway Danny Rose".