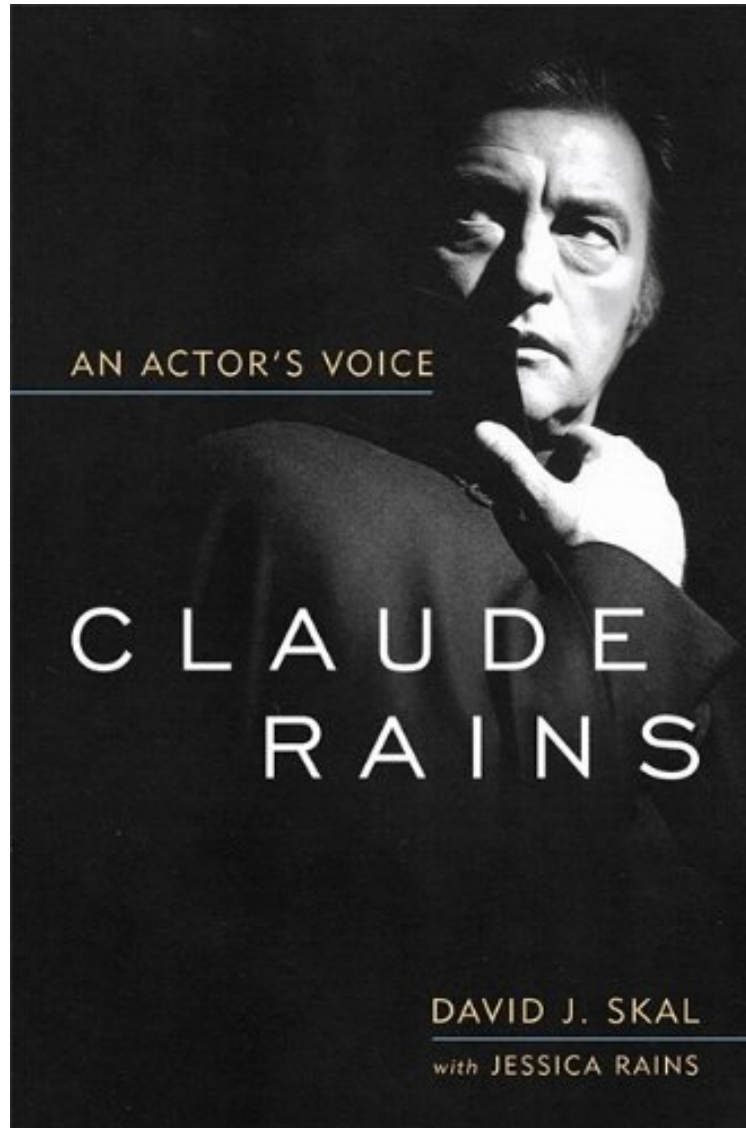


(Download pdf) Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice (Screen Classics)

Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice (Screen Classics)

David J. Skal, Jessica Rains

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David J. Skal, Jessica Rains : Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice (Screen Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice (Screen Classics):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Should have been betterBy Paula CliffordThis is a pretty good biography that could have been much better. Rains' early years are given excellent coverage, but his film years are given very little coverage aside from complaints about Warner Brothers not sticking to the terms of his contract and his dislike of certain co-stars (I've seent he comments on Paul Henreid attributed to others too). Little is said about his becoming an American citizen or a New York Times report in the late 1930's regarding a hospitalization, though it

goes into perhaps too much detail about his later health issues. While some of the information has been around in assorted books for years having it gathered in one place with the new information is a plus, and the stories from his early years fill in quite a few gaps only touched on in standard film references. The photos are a mixed bunch, again the early ones are excellent while the film ones were not the best scenes to use. His personal life was far from perfect, he certainly could have handled wanting out of marriage number five better than he did, but there are plenty who have done worse than changing the locks on the house. I've admired him as an actor for a long time and this book does nothing to change that. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Actor's Voice By LuAnne Parrish I'm really enjoying this Claude Rains biography! It's well written and greatly informative. He is one of my favorite character actors from Hollywood's Golden Age and I never tire of watching him play beside the great "Bogie" or the Divine Bette Davis! "Now, Voyager" is my all time favorite Bette Davis movie from the 1930s, and Claude Rains is a big part of the reason why. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exquisite Biography of Man Most Did Not Know By StephanieAnn Quite an extraordinary glimpse into the life of one of the true consummate actors of this era. Very well written! The author has obviously familiarized himself with Mr Rains, having apparently used extensive resources, some of which were a prior biographer's hundreds of transcribed conversations between Mr Rains and the biographer first hired to write his biography (he died before he could write the book. Mr Rains story, beginning with his poor, lonely, friendless, cruel childhood, You will find yourself caught up in his pain, despair and stuttering problems, which were very humiliating to him. Yet, it takes years before the child finds its "niche" in the world, even though he began working for London Play House s very young. By that time you find him somewhat happy being near the theatre, you will still find yourself cheering him on to not give up. I found it unfortunate that his first wives, each in the same way humiliated him horribly, which would have made most men and men to give up on having any trust left to risk another serious relationship. I found him to be as he appeared to us through his first love, the stage, as well as in most of his movies - highly intense, intolerant of those who did not take the artful craft as seriously as he did. I do believe that he was a genius when it came to his preparation for his lines, as well as learning everyone else's as well. I will say no more, except for his great intensity you find in him in whatever medium of entertainment he applied his masterful craft. I was both happy and surprised with how respectful and enamored Bette Davus was with him. She never spoke ill of him or his acting, which, as everyone knows, is not usual for our dynamic Bette Davis! This book will NOT disappoint. However, you may be like me - I had no clue that he overcame sometimes insurmountable odds throughout his entire life.,

Late in Claude Rains's distinguished career, a reverent film journalist wrote that Rains "was as much a cinematic institution as the medium itself." Given his childhood speech impediments and his origins in a destitute London neighborhood, the ascent of Claude Rains (1889-1967) to the stage and screen is remarkable. Rains's difficulties in his formative years provided reserves of gravitas and sensitivity, from which he drew inspiration for acclaimed performances in *The Invisible Man* (1933), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939), *Casablanca* (1942), *Notorious* (1946), *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), and other classic films. In *Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice*, noted Hollywood historian David J. Skal draws on more than thirty hours of newly released Rains interviews to create the first full-length biography of the actor who was nominated multiple times for an Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actor. Skal's portrait of the gifted actor also benefits from the insights of Jessica Rains, who provides firsthand accounts of the enigmatic man behind her father's refined screen presence and genteel public persona. As Skal shows, numerous contradictions informed the life and career of Claude Rains. He possessed an air of nobility and became an emblem of sophistication, but he never shed the insecurities that traced back to his upbringing in an abusive and poverty-stricken family. Though deeply self-conscious about his short stature, Rains drew notorious ardor from female fans and was married six times. His public displays of dry wit and good humor masked inner demons that drove Rains to alcoholism and its devastating consequences. Skal's layered depiction of Claude Rains reveals a complex, almost inscrutable man whose nuanced characterizations were, in no small way, based on the more shadowy parts of his psyche. With unprecedented access to episodes from Rains's private life, Skal tells the full story of the consummate character actor of his generation. *Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice*, gives voice to the struggles and innermost concerns that influenced Rains's performances and helped him become a universally respected Hollywood legend.

"[Claude Rains] was perfect. There's a very small group of actors who seemingly never made a mistake: Walter Huston, Spencer Tracy, Henry Fonda, and Claude Rains." Roddy McDowell "[Claude Rains] was witty, amusing, and beautiful. And thoroughly enchanting to be with. And brilliant." Bette Davis "Claude Rains was a consummate actor whose remarkable life and career has been covered in fascinating detail in this book." Kevin Brownlow "Most movie stars eventually are forgotten, and almost all character actors are, but the reputation of Claude Rains has survived for more than 40 years since his death. David Skal's biography, written with Rains' daughter, probably will provoke even more welcome and justified reassessments of his gifts." Scott Eyman, *Cox News Service* "This highly readable biography, written with the help of his daughter, Jessica Rains, reveals the witty, talented man behind this universally respected Hollywood legend." *Tuscan Citizen* "A comprehensive, breezily written guide to a consummate gentleman

and an ever-diligent pro."Post and Courier"The book has an excellent appendix detailing Rain's theatre and film work, and a good bibliography and index."Mary of Many Colors"It's a fast, compelling read, leaving readers to reach their own conclusions."Expressionmilwaukee.com"Well-researched, competently written biography of the English actor."Robert Nott, Sante Fe New Mexican"Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice seeks to shine the spotlight on one of the sharpest and most elegant stars of classical Hollywood cinema. . . . Skal has presented and organized a treasure trove of material with methodical acuity. [A] lucid and informative biography."ScopeFrom the Inside FlapLate in Claude Rains's distinguished career, a reverent film journalist wrote that Rains "was as much a cinematic institution as the medium itself." Given his childhood speech impediments and his origins in a destitute London neighborhood, the ascent of Claude Rains (1889--1967) to the stage and screen is remarkable. Rains's difficulties in his formative years provided reserves of gravitas and sensitivity, from which he drew inspiration for acclaimed performances in *The Invisible Man* (1933), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939), *Casablanca* (1942), *Notorious* (1946), *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), and other classic films.In *Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice*, noted Hollywood historian David J. Skal draws on more than thirty hours of newly released Rains interviews to create the first full-length biography of the actor who was nominated multiple times for an Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actor. Skal's portrait of the gifted actor also benefits from the insights of Jessica Rains, who provides firsthand accounts of the enigmatic man behind her father's refined screen presence and genteel public persona.As Skal shows, numerous contradictions informed the life and career of Claude Rains. He possessed an air of nobility and became an emblem of sophistication, but he never shed the insecurities that traced back to his upbringing in an abusive and poverty-stricken family. Though deeply self-conscious about his short stature, Rains drew notorious ardor from female fans and was married six times. His public displays of dry wit and good humor masked inner demons that drove Rains to alcoholism and its devastating consequences.Skal's layered depiction of Claude Rains reveals a complex, almost inscrutable man whose nuanced characterizations were, in no small way, based on the more shadowy parts of his psyche. With unprecedented access to episodes from Rains's private life, Skal tells the full story of the consummate character actor of his generation. *Claude Rains: An Actor's Voice*, gives voice to the struggles and innermost concerns that influenced Rains's performances and helped him become a universally respected Hollywood legend.About the AuthorDavid J. Skal, the author of numerous books about film and popular culture, including *Hollywood Gothic* and *The Monster Show*.Jessica Rains, the only child of Claude Rains, is a producer and actress.