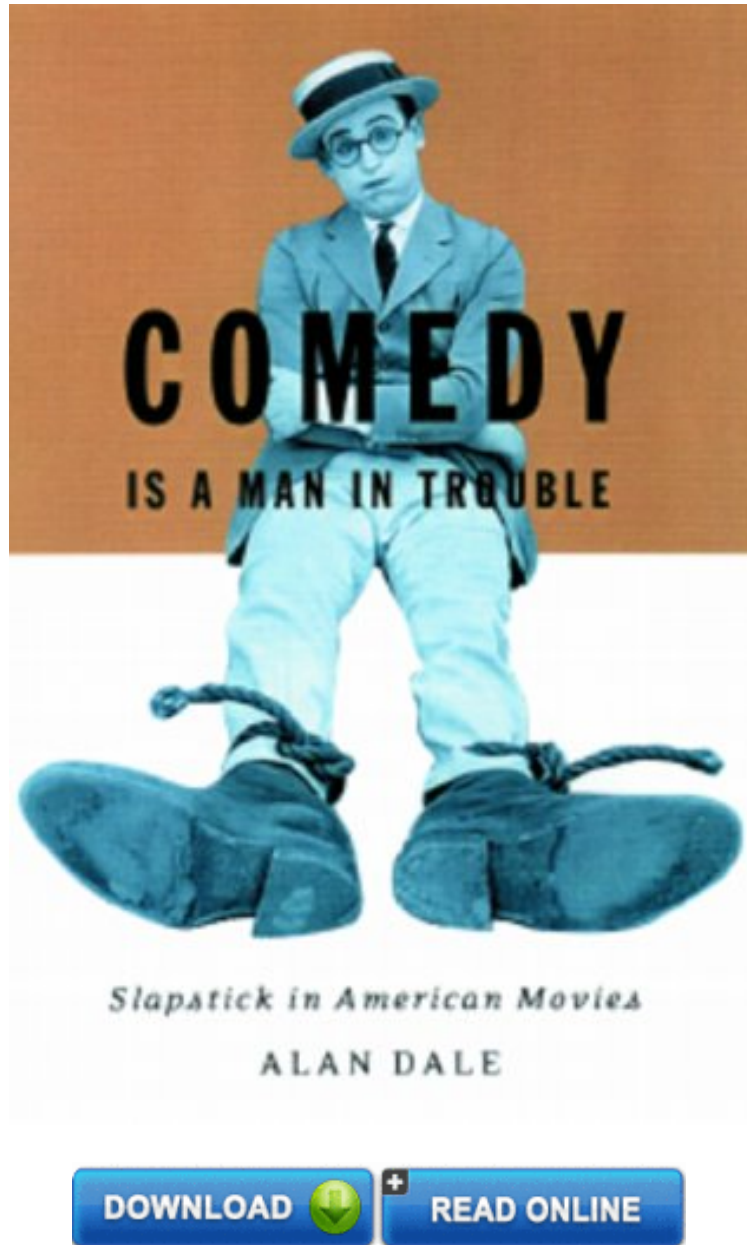


(Download ebook) Comedy Is A Man In Trouble: Slapstick in American Movies

## Comedy Is A Man In Trouble: Slapstick in American Movies

*Alan Dale*

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#3128790 in Books Univ Of Minnesota Press 2000-09-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 5.881, 1.20 #File Name: 0816636575270 pages | File size: 34.Mb

**Alan Dale : Comedy Is A Man In Trouble: Slapstick in American Movies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Comedy Is A Man In Trouble: Slapstick in American Movies:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A surprisingly great find!By JEFWhile researching different types of humor for my research in (human-centric) computer information systems, I stumbled upon this book. Though I usually read technical article after technical article, I found this book to be a nice break from the usual. It provided me with the

information I needed for my research, but with an added surprise. I found myself reading this book for pure enjoyment and entertainment. The subject is fascinating and the Dale does a great job of explaining it in the most interesting of ways. I think this is my next "coffee table book" once I put it down myself! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rare find By Barbara Helen Wonderful book-well written and well thought out. This is silent comedy fans welcome addition to any collection. Thank you for having it available. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, but only for silent movie buffs By Edie Nolan Review of Comedy is a Man in Trouble Hot Toasty Rag, June 6, 2017 Alan Dale has written a great book, but only for a specific audience. Slapstick is still present in modern movies, but with exception to his chapter dedicated to Jerry Lewis, the entire book is devoted to old movie stars. If you're not a die-hard Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, or Marx Brothers fan (or don't even know who they are) this is not the book for you. Now, those who like silent movies and early talkies, let's talk about the book. If you've seen most of Buster Keaton's movies (or whoever the chapter is titled after), you'll be on the exact same page (no pun intended) with Dale as he references specific jokes from many of his films. Dale also gives a history of comedy in silent films, explaining the literal clown-ish behavior and physicality of humor, because no one could rely on a verbal joke. Parts of the writing feel a little dry, almost like a textbook, and only if you've seen dozens upon dozens of films will you be able to keep up with Dale's examples. I happen to be a total movie buff who just adores Buster Keaton so I didn't get lost until the Jerry Lewis chapter.

Film An enthusiast's look at American comedies and the physical comedians who made them great. Legendary screen comedian Jerry Lewis once said, "The premise of all comedy is a man in trouble." The films that endeared Lewis and others to us hinged on the physical assault of their hero, the pie in the face or slip on the banana peel that reduced the movie star to the level of the audience. *Comedy Is a Man in Trouble* presents the legacy of physical humor from the performances of vaudeville actors and circus clowns—who coined the term "slapstick" by playfully and noisily beating each other with wooden paddles—to its ongoing popularity today in the films of Jim Carrey and the Farrelly brothers. Alan Dale's personal and passionate tour of movie slapstick begins with an original assessment of the work of famed silent clowns Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, and Buster Keaton. Dale rejects the long-held notion that the talent of these comedians lies in their ability to combine comedy and tragedy and suggests that their riotous imaginations and their physical grace revealed greatness in comedy for its own sake. A decade later the Marx Brothers exploited the new technology of sound film in their fast-paced verbal exchanges—and, in doing so, invented a verbal form of slapstick later exploited by directors such as Preston Sturges and Howard Hawks. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Jerry Lewis energetically revised and combined the physical and verbal humor of his predecessors for a new generation of viewers. *Comedy Is a Man in Trouble* presents a lively, accessible, and lavishly illustrated look at a form of comedy that has its origins in ancient Greece and in American vaudeville and has been expanded and refashioned in film by everyone from W. C. Fields and Marion Davies to Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. Here is not only an amusing look at film comedy history, but an insight into the human condition and what causes us to laugh. Alan Dale worked at a Los Angeles talent agency before earning a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Princeton University. He lives in Hoboken, New Jersey. Translation Inquiries: University of Minnesota Press

From Library Journal Slapstick has always been a film staple, and Dale (writing and American studies, Princeton) presents a history of cinematic slapstick, which he defines as an elemental aspect of existence...a fundamental, universal, and eternal response to the fact that life is physical. This is a selective, appreciative survey of the diverse masters of physical comedy, from Charlie Chaplin (with emphasis on his later Great Dictator), stone-faced Buster Keaton, all-American nice guy Harold Lloyd, the Marx Brothers, writer-director Preston Sturges, and French cult-favorite Jerry Lewis. Rejecting the notion that slapstick necessarily involves pathos, the author deftly combines criticism and biography, offering keen insight and lively prose. He notes that studio bosses believed that men rejected female clowns because they didn't laugh at attractive women, yet Dale makes a compelling case for Katharine Hepburn as a breakthrough slapstick artist. This book is a fine addition to public and academic libraries, deserving a place next to Walter Kerr's *The Silent Clowns* (Da Capo Pr., 1990. reprint) and other classics on film comedy." Stephen Rees, Levittown Regional Lib., PA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.