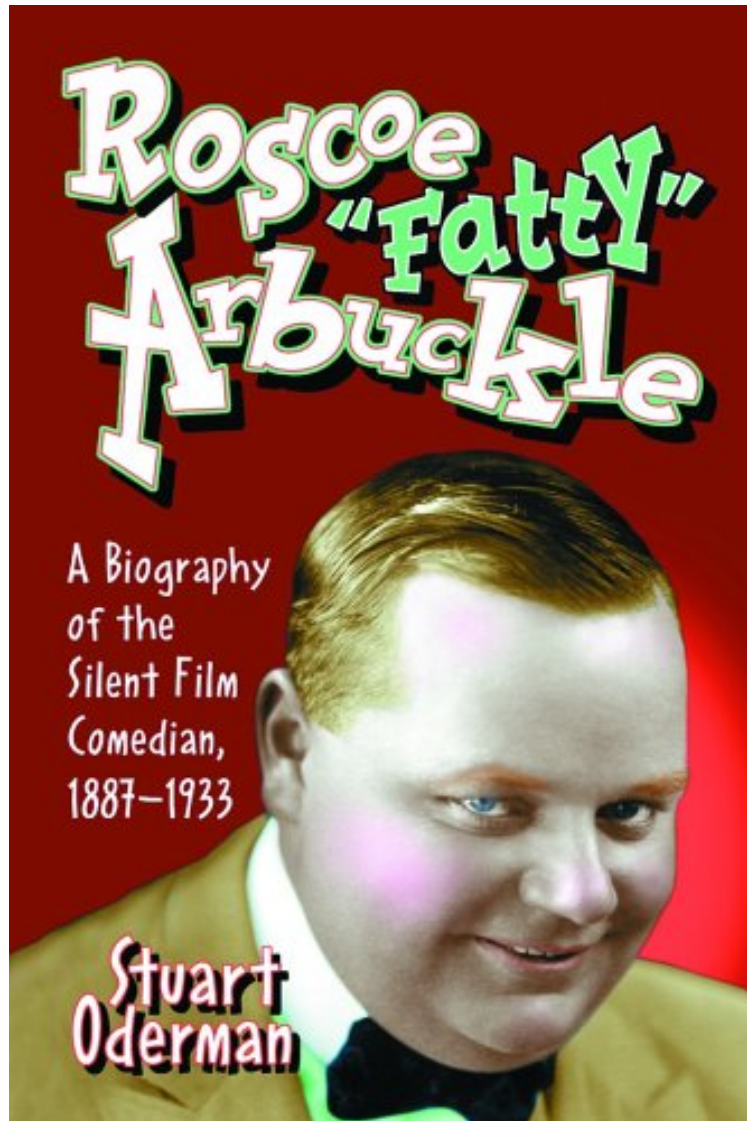


[Mobile book] Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle: A Biography Of The Silent Film Comedian, 1887-1933

Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle: A Biography Of The Silent Film Comedian, 1887-1933

Stuart Oderman

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Stuart Oderman : Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle: A Biography Of The Silent Film Comedian, 1887-1933 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle: A Biography Of The Silent Film Comedian, 1887-1933:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So Far So GoodBy Alan F. BessenI am About halfway through this book but it is well written , informative and definitely holds your attention. I decided to get this book after reading

Jerry Stahl's novel "I, Fatty" so I could get more factual info on Roscoe Arbuckle and this book delivers!!!! 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Arbuckle's life included more than a terrible scandal, and this book confirms that. By Snorre Smari Mathiesen It is of great satisfaction to every fan of silent comedy that Roscoe Arbuckle is finally gaining some recognition as something more than an unfortunate victim of false accusations. His work was recently celebrated in a loving DVD-set released by Laughsmith, and this book, ROSCOE "FATTY" ARBUCKLE A BIOGRAPHY OF THE SILENT FILM COMEDIAN by Stuart Oderman, which was first published in 1994 and reprinted last year, is another triumph. While it examines the infamous scandal thoroughly, it also includes aspects of his life far beyond that, beginning with his sad, friendless childhood which was largely shaped by his mother's death and his father's alcoholism, going on to cover his early stage career. Oderman has done his research not only on Arbuckle but also, obviously, on his era. Oderman spent years interviewing people involved in Arbuckle's life, most significantly his first wife Minta Durfee; some have questioned the accuracy of Durfee's statements, but it does in any case remain of value to be provided with her insights and way of thinking. Of particular interest to me was reading about Arbuckle's working relationship with Chaplin and Keaton. The book does suffer from some inaccuracies; whereas Oderman claims that Arbuckle starred in three sound shorts for Warner Brothers towards the end of his life, he did in fact appear in no less than six. However, all in all these flaws are quite minor, and ROSCOE "FATTY" ARBUCKLE: A BIOGRAPHY OF THE SILENT FILM COMEDIAN is highly recommended from me to anyone who appreciate the comedies of the charming comedian, and to you who simply want a believable study of his life.-- UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2010 - I've recently re-read this book and must admit to have slightly changed my opinion on it. I have done more research on Arbuckle in the time that has passed and have come to realize that Oderman's study may disappoint in some respects. First of all, the book relies quite heavily on the memories of Arbuckle's first wife Minta Durfee, who with all due respect was known to embellish the truth in interviews. Furthermore, readers are not given that many clues as to what made Arbuckle stand out as a comedian in his time. This is still the best full-fledged biography devoted to Arbuckle to date, but a "definite" biography has yet to be written. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Better than some... By M. Hagerstrom I had high hopes for this book- particularly given the \$30 price tag. Don't get me wrong, I am more than willing to pay more for a good product. Unfortunately, there are several "little" problems that add up to a less than stellar experience. The first thing that struck me when I received the book was how thin it was. Now at 255 pages, it's not exactly a pamphlet but most of the other biographies that I own for silent film stars are more substantial. My real issues started within the first few pages. The text states that Arbuckle made 3 sound shorts in 1933 as part of an attempt at a comeback. Not true. Arbuckle made a total of 6 shorts in 1932-1933. The short that the text says was the first short made was in fact the LAST one made. Elsewhere, the text states that Buster Keaton gave up \$250/wk on a show in exchange for \$40/wk to work with Arbuckle and he considered the pay cut a small price to pay for his apprenticeship with Arbuckle. Keaton, in fact never bothered to ask initially how much he would make working with Arbuckle. There are other minor examples I could cite. This may seem nitpicky of me but if these basic facts are incorrect and/or misleading, I am left to wonder what else is incorrect or misleading. There are also several typos throughout the book- not a big deal but one more minor thing that detracts from the work. I also noticed that on several occasions an incident that is cited in one chapter is cited again in the following chapter without adding anything to the retelling; it gives the impression of a school child told to write a 1000 word essay and repeats himself to reach the word requirement. On the bright side, I have this to say about the book: It is certainly better than the Stahl book out there that, though a self proclaimed fictional work, many take to be more biographical than they should. Oderman's book is a balanced, non-sensationalized account of Arbuckle's life. Also I was pleased to see excerpts of interviews with Minta Durfee (Arbuckle's first wife). It was informative to read her take of events in her own words. Much of this material I have not seen elsewhere. In the end I enjoyed reading the book very much but I am left wondering how much of the material is accurate.

Fatty Arbuckle's career came to a sudden halt amidst allegations that he raped and caused the death of a young starlet named Virginia Rappe. Though he was acquitted, the comedian, who was at one time second in popularity only to Charlie Chaplin, was ruined. Interviews with many of Arbuckle's contemporaries (including Minta Durfee, his first wife) and extensive research inform this serious study of the once-fabled comedian. His early days in the Keystone comedies and his relationship with Chaplin are recounted. The details of the Rappe trial and his life afterwards are also provided.

[A] fascinating biography...an invaluable and thorough historical perspective...highly recommended --Choice a good read that will satisfy any fan of these early movie stars --Sullivan County Democrat fascinating first-hand accounts...vividly captures the personal side of the people in the world of early film comedy --Past Times About the Author Internationally acclaimed silent film pianist Stuart Oderman lives in East Orange, New Jersey. He is also the author of Lillian Gish (2000).