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Citizen Kane: A Filmmaker's Journey



Synopsis

With the 75th anniversary of Citizen Kane in May 2016, Harlan Lebo has written the full story of Orson Welles' masterpiece film. The book explores Welles' meteoric rise to stardom in New York and the real reason behind his arrival in Hollywood and unprecedented contract with RKO Studios for total creative control. It also delves into the dispute over who wrote the script; the mystery of the "lost" final script; and the plot by Hearst to destroy Welles' project through blackmail, media manipulation, and other tactics. The author finally examines the surprising emergence of Citizen Kane as an enduring masterpiece. Using previously unpublished material from studio files and the Hearst organization, exclusive interviews with the last surviving members of the cast and crew, and what may be the only surviving copy of the "lost" final script of the film, Citizen Kane: A Filmmaker's Journey recounts the making of one of the most famous films in Hollywood history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't care how many books or articles you've read on Orson Welles or the movie "Citizen Kane," this is a must-read for anyone interested in film history and/or the creative process. Harlan Lebo has, in my opinion, written the definitive work on "Kane" and filmmaker Welles. Both the movie and the man are American classics. I initially found this book on the new non-fiction shelf at the public library. I borrowed it and, after looking it over, immediately returned it because I wanted to own the book for my Kindle. This happens when I discover a "keeper," I purchased the electronic book from that very day and the Kindle formatted volume matches the printed book word-for-word and has all

the photographs, which display nicely on my PaperWhite. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in films and film-making.

I once took an entire quarter course at UCLA Fil School on this incredible motion picture. The author gives us a rare and thorough background on the making of the film as well as a valuable insight on the 25 year-old genius who transformed the way movies are made. Fascinating and well-researched, this is a must buy for film buffs EVERYWHERE!

Fantastic. If you bought the 1991 50th Anniversary VHS boxset and enjoyed the coffee table book back then, you should not hesitate to purchase this book. This work is everything the older book couldn't be-- there's so much more of the story behind this movie, its release, and aftermath. And to top it all off, it doesn't just read like dry information, like some other authors of these types of books tend to write. Lebo's text is entertaining and smooth to read. And he doesn't present a biased view, being very fair in regards to Orson, Mankiewicz, and even Houseman. This is a fine book.

This is a nice addition to the recent crop of books on Welles; the author doesn't get in the way of his facts and he does a good job putting this film in its historical context.

I've read a lot about the making of this film, and seen the two hour documentary with the DVD but there's a lot here I've never heard before. A fun read.

The ultimate guide to the film masterpiece! Everything you ever wanted to know about KANE is here-a treasure trove of information for fans and a remarkable story for students of film.

excellent book, a must for film buffs. Gave much detailed account of the making of the film with great insights. Makes one want to see the film once again.

Terrific research. Exciting & passionate read. The best non-fiction of the year.

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