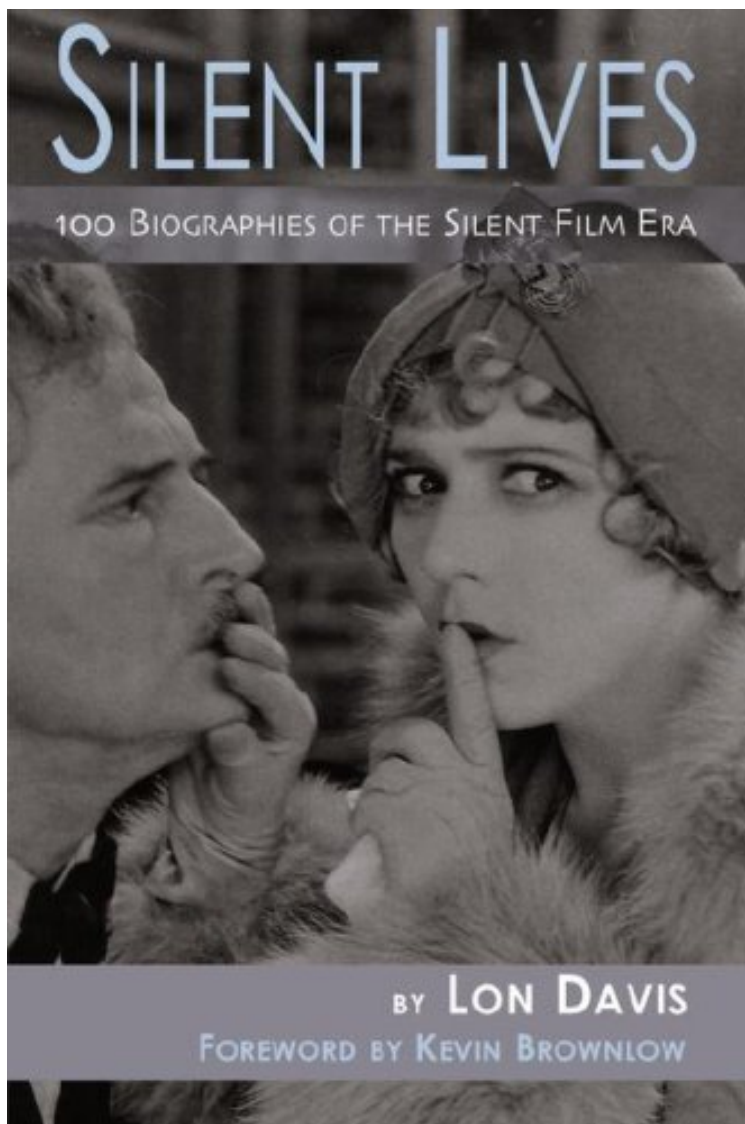


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Silent Lives

Lon Davis

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#1561020 in Books 2008-02-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .86 x 5.98l, 1.35 #File Name: 1593931247420 pages | File size: 53.Mb

Lon Davis : Silent Lives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Silent Lives:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fun ReadBy E. Hunter HaleSILENT LIVES by Lon Davis is a collection of 100 brief biographies of stars, producers and directors from the silent era. I learned a number of fascinating facts about artists that I previously knew little about. It makes you want to know more about some of them but also is a fun read to get you better acquainted with artists that you may know very little about. I introduce silent

film programs at The Organ Loft in Salt Lake City which has a 2,600 pipe Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ used to provide a live score for screened films. This book will provide me with some interesting introductory material to share with our audiences. A Fun Read.23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. A Must-Have for Early Cinema EnthusiastsBy Barbara UnderwoodIt was with great pleasure and excitement that I began reading this new book whose release seems perfectly timed in this current revival and growing availability of silent and early films. Written with passion and in-depth understanding by a life-long silent film enthusiast, this book is exactly what everyone with a sincere interest in early cinema could wish for. It has been meticulously researched and presented in a way which provides the reader with a wealth of information at a glance and at one's fingertips, from the succinct biographies in alphabetical order, to resource references and website addresses for further personal research. Aside from being an indispensable handbook for general knowledge or for writing articles and reviews about actors, directors and other key characters of the silent era, it is also a pleasure to simply read from cover to cover. This is mainly due to the engaging style of writing, making a factual biography read more like an enjoyable story - and what stories they are! Suddenly the names of stars and behind-the-scenes crew became real, living people as I read each one's life story, beginning with the basic facts underneath their names, namely what age they lived to, and of what they died. This little bit of extra information already makes the person come alive in one's mind, and the 2-3 page biographies summarize highlights and certain traits about each individual in such a way that a solid first (or second!) impression is formed. No doubt this can be attributed to the fact that the author personally interviewed some of the people showcased in this book, or else has liaised with family members or ardent followers of the person in question. Each person's most important films are mentioned, both from the silent and early sound era, and at least one interesting photo or illustration per biography makes for enjoyable yet very informative reading. Although essential for any novice of silent films, "Silent Lives" is also an exciting revelation for more advanced aficionados, thanks to the carefully chosen list of biographies ranging from the essential, most famous names to the obscure and unexpected silent film features such as Felix the Cat, the Model T Ford automobile and my favourite; Rin Tin Tin, the famous canine actor, whose biography reveals that he lived nearly 14 years, and unlike some of his contemporaries, made the transition into sound films effortlessly. Important behind-the-scenes people such as directors, writers, inventors and cameramen are also given worthy tributes in these biographies, which altogether gives a well-balanced overview of who contributed to the development of early Hollywood, how, and which films best represent these facets. Obviously, a medium-sized book cannot encompass the entire gamut of early cinema, but the mere fact that the one hundred short biographies in this book already provide a firm foundation is evidence of the skilful research, planning and writing required for such a book, which in itself deserves of a full 5-star rating.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Easy to read blast from the past...By KevinJohnCharbeneauFor cinema lovers... especially in light of THE ARTIST, which has opened new doors to the forgotten films of yesteryear and in particular THE SILENT ERA, where it all began. Start your journey here. Easy to read, quick insights and biographical information that will take you to new names and places in the history of Hollywood and Film. Unlock the treasures of years gone by... the era your great grandparents, grandparents and, possibly, your parents remember. Today's generations thought of these stars and films as quirky, fast paced and irreverent for today's sophisticated filmgoer. Hardly the case, many of the names in this book, and the films discussed were, are and will remain bigger stars than some of today's big names. Do yourself a favor and purchase and read this book... you will find new Treasures from Yesterday's worlds.

"A truly delightful, interesting and informative volume - with a nice (and very mixed) choice of subjects." Anthony Slide Silent Lives contains 100 biographical sketches of the great--and near great--of the silent film era. Each vividly written profile is illustrated by exquisite photographs, many of which have not been seen in decades. Kevin Brownlow (who provides the foreword) says: "If you ever wondered who created the movies, this fascinating book will provide the answer."