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Singin' in the Rain: The Making of an American Masterpiece

Earl J. Hess, Pratibha A. Dabholkar

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#415826 in Books Earl J Hess 2009-05-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .70 x 6.60 x 8.96l, 1.02 #File Name: 0700617574346 pagesSingin in the Rain The Making of an American Masterpiece | File size: 26.Mb

Earl J. Hess, Pratibha A. Dabholkar : Singin' in the Rain: The Making of an American Masterpiece before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Singin' in the Rain: The Making of an American Masterpiece:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Essential for movie lovers of this filmBy Eric Mascarin PerigaultUndoubtedly, the best musical in film history, this book tells the story of his realization since when Arthur Freed, the producer of the best musicals of MGM, called Comden and Green to write a movie with the music catalog of him and Nacio Herb Brown. Everything is here counted on production. There are a lot of data, all very interesting.

Excellent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Solid Book about a Solid Musical!!! By voracious reader Very interesting story about the making of that great musical. True, it gets redundant at times, but overall this is a good overview of what all went into that production. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great informative book, not enough photographs we haven't seen By Nellie Bly I was expecting some colorful behind-the-scenes photos of sets and stars. Disappointed with that, but the text and writing fine. Tremendous detail.

There is no movie musical more fun than *Singin' in the Rain*, and few that remain as fresh over the years. . . . It is a transcendent experience, and no one who loves movies can afford to miss it. Roger Ebert. America's most popular film critic is hardly alone in singing the praises of *Singin' in the Rain*. This quintessential American film made in Hollywood's Golden Age, showcasing the genius of Gene Kelly, and featuring what Ebert calls "the most joyous musical sequence ever filmed" has inspired love and admiration from fellow critics, film scholars, and movie buffs worldwide for more than half a century. Indeed, its reputation continues to grow: the American Film Institute now ranks it number 1 on its list of the Greatest Movie Musicals of All Time and number 5 on its list of the Greatest American Films of All Time. Echoing the enthusiasm of the film's most devoted fans, Earl Hess and Pratibha Dabholkar embrace and illuminate both the film and its reputation. Combining lucid prose with meticulous scholarship, they provide for the first time the complete inside story of how this classic movie was made, marketed, and received. They re-create the actual movie-making experience, on the set and behind the scenes, and chronicle every step in production from original concept through casting, scripting, rehearsals, filming, scoring, and editing. They then trace its distribution, critical reception, and enduring reputation. The book is brimming with human interest, bursting with anecdotes and quotes by and about the film's stars and makers. Here are Gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor at the top of their form, along with Debbie Reynolds and Cyd Charisse in their breakthrough roles. Here, too, are fascinating tidbits about censorship troubles, continuity flaws, stunt doubles for Kelly, voice doubles for cast members, the dubbing of taps, and genealogy of all the songs. Hess and Dabholkar also provide in-depth analyses of each of the major song-and-dance performances, including details of everything from the dynamics of "Gotta Dance!" to the physical challenges of the remarkable title number. Based on exhaustive research in oral histories, studio production records, letters, memoirs, and interviews, their book is factually impeccable, compulsively readable, and indispensable for anyone who loves movies at their absolute best.

From School Library Journal *Singin' in the Rain* is number one on the American Film Institute's list of greatest movie musicals. Loved for the unique, energetic dance routines, the movie still captivates. In this extensively researched book, Hess (Stewart W. McClelland Chair in History, Lincoln Memorial Univ.) and Dabholkar (marketing, Univ. of Tennessee) describe in detail everything from the original concept to the Hollywood premiere in 1952. Using books, articles, dissertations, studio production notes, and other sources, the authors have painstakingly pieced together the history of this classic film, including short biographies of Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and Debbie Reynolds. The text is informative but not stimulating; the dance routines are much better on-screen than described in print. Most of the material can be found in works such as Peter Wollen's *Singin' in the Rain* (excerpts from which appear in this book). Hess and Dabholkar's contribution will be useful for film students and perhaps dance students; however, it probably won't appeal to general audiences. Recommended for college film libraries. Rosalind Dayen, South Regional Lib., Pembroke Pines, FL Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred* A great movie deserves a great book, and that's what readers get in this meticulous, behind-the-scenes look at the movie the American Film Institute calls the greatest movie musical of all time. The authors go into an amazing amount of detail, beginning with the film's origins as a simple vehicle for songs by MGM producer Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown and extending to its long-ranging effect on cinema. As the core of their research, the authors make good use of books written by and about the principals, including Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Debbie Reynolds, Betty Comden, and Adolph Green. Consequently, the text is never dry; those involved are present through their quotes, commenting on the action. And what action! It's all here: the relationships, the decisions, the intricacies of how scenes were shot and how dances were choreographed. The one disappointment is the photographs. Although there are 16 nicely chosen photos in an inset, they are not the kind of lavish illustration the subject demands. Well, there's one solution for that. Go watch the movie, this time with full knowledge of how O'Connor managed that amazing footwork in *Make Em Laugh*. --Ilene Cooper Loving and appreciative, researched to a fare-thee-well, and pitched to both fans and first-time viewers of *Singin' in the Rain*, this delightful book delivers almost as much fun as the film itself. Jeanine Basinger, author of *American Cinema: 100 Years of Filmmaking and The Star Machine* Very much in the vein of Harnetz's classic works on *The Wizard of Oz* and *Casablanca*, this study should become the last word on its subject. . . . a bonafide page-turner that will be welcomed by general readers and academics alike. Rick Altman, author of *The American Film Musical* For those who love *Singin' in the Rain* (and who doesn't?), this is a detailed appreciation of how it happened. Harold Prince, legendary producer of Broadway musicals