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## Some Like It Hot: The Official 50th Anniversary Companion

Laurence Maslon

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**Laurence Maslon : Some Like It Hot: The Official 50th Anniversary Companion** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Some Like It Hot: The Official 50th Anniversary Companion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kayfavorite movie of all time0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Some do Like it Hot!By Shirley LawrenceAnyone who loves the Golden Age of the Silver Screen will love this book. It makes a great gift and coffee table Book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nicely organized, beautifully illustratedBy David J. LoftusThe movie is so fresh, so vigorous, so full of pep and life force -- and so sly -- that it's hard to believe "Some Like It Hot" is now 50 years old.But it is, and Laurence Maslon, an associate professor at the Tisch School of the Arts and author of several books about American musicals, comedies, and specifically "The Sound of Music" and "South Pacific," has offered a pleasing coffee-table tribute to this one.When a movie has become so familiar and venerable, it may be difficult to recall what a risk Mirisch and his

brothers Harold and Marvin were taking with their brand-new production company's first project, whose dramatic hook, early in the story, is a fairly straightforward recreation of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. According to Wilder's interview with [Cameron] Crowe, Selznick responded, "Oh my God, you're not doing a comedy with murder? They're going to crucify you. They're going to walk out in droves! It's just going to be embarrassing." Maslon's book is simply divided into chapters about the writing, casting, shooting at the MGM lot, location work at the Del Coronado hotel in San Diego (standing in for a luxury Miami resort), further shooting at Goldwyn Studios, post-production, and "Legacy." That last includes an abortive 1961 TV series, with a prologue in which Lemmon and Curtis graciously cameo'd and pretended to get plastic surgery to continue their escape from the gangsters, and thus paved the way for replacement actors Dick Patterson and Vic Damone as Jerry and Joe; and the 1972 stage musical, *Sugar*, starring Tony Roberts and Robert Morse (and 1974 and 1992 revivals -- the last with Tommy Steele, and Tony Curtis taking Joe E. Brown's old role of puckish millionaire Osgood Fielding III). Along the way, however, Maslon inserts two- to four-page commentaries on topics of tangential interest: *Fanfare d'amour* and *Fanfaren der Liebe*, the 1935 French and 1951 German cross-dressing films that inspired *Some Like It Hot*; the 1929 Chicago gang setting; Orry-Kelly, the dress designer on the film (who won an Oscar for his work); a brief history of men-in-drag plots in film and TV; Florida in the Roaring Twenties; the Del Coronado; Chicago jazz; film scorer Matty Malneck; and the ingenuities of the script. There's plenty about Monroe, of course -- her perpetual lateness to the set, her entourage (especially acting coach Paula Strasberg's hovering and kibitzing), nervous visits from hubby Arthur Miller because of her pregnancy with a child that would miscarry, and so on. She overdosed on sleeping pills the first week of shooting. And apparently she could be very inconsistent about nailing her lines. She did the upper-berth scene with Lemmon in a single take, and most of the beach scenes with Curtis with the same dispatch. But other times: "[Lemmon and Curtis] would wager on how many takes it would require before Monroe could produce something usable. For example, Curtis might say, 'I smell a thirty-take coming on' and Lemmon would wager that she would come in at fifteen. He'd lose his five dollars, and then raise the number to twenty--and lose another five dollars to Curtis. And so on." Producer Walter Mirisch reports, "Jack Lemmon once told me ... 'I wake up in the middle of the night in a sweat, and I've dreamt that we are on take fifty-five and Marilyn has gotten her lines right and I blew it.'" There's a temptation to assume that Maslon's book could never measure up to the book about *"Some Like It Hot"* edited by Alison Castle, with interviews by Dan Auiler, and published by Taschen in 2001. It's a big one: 384 pages, with covers that measure 10-1/4 by 16 inches, and weighing somewhere in the neighborhood of nine and a half pounds. Surprisingly, there's not that much overlap. Maslon quotes from the Taschen book, clearly, but his volume has a more analytical approach. There are some identical stills, but not a few are different images (say, of Lemmon and Curtis getting their feminine makeup applied) from what are obviously the same sessions. The Taschen volume expends a good part of its bulk on the first draft and shooting script, with scads of black-and-white stills from the film (it also has many pages of memorabilia, such as posters from foreign screenings), while Maslon's book has more publicity stills, off-camera shots, and background material. So they don't compete or clash as much as you'd expect. If you love the movie, you'll love this book.

Featuring never-before-seen photos of Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon, *Some Like It Hot: The Official 50th Anniversary Companion* celebrates Billy Wilder's classic film, voted the number one funniest movie of all time by the American Film Institute. Granted full access to the MGM vaults, author Laurence Maslon offers a fully illustrated companion guide of memorabilia and behind-the-scenes tidbits perfect for anyone who loves comedy, jazz, and American film.

Fresh off his companion book (written with Michael Kantor) to the splendid PBS series *Make Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America*, Laurence Maslon has written a loving tribute to one of cinema's most enduring comedies in *Some Like It Hot: The Official 50th Anniversary Companion*. (Moving Pictures Magazine) *Some Like It Hot: The Official 50th Anniversary Companion* by Laurence Maslon is every inch the gorgeous coffee table tome you'd expect to see in celebration of the 1959 film which co-starred Jack Lemmon, and was selected by the American Film Institute as the funniest comedy ever made. (LA/OC Theatre Examiner) *Some Like It Hot: The Official 50th Anniversary Companion* This exquisitely illustrated coffee-table book is a must-own for fans of the quintessential Marilyn Monroe comedy, voted by the American Film Institute as cinema's all-time funniest. (Advocate.com) From the Back Cover Selected as America's Funniest Movie by the American Film Institute, *Some Like It Hot* remains an undisputed classic fifty years after its release, as it continues to capture three of American culture's great preoccupations--jazz, gangsters, and Marilyn Monroe. The Official 50th Anniversary Companion details the history of this side-splitting farce from its roots as an obscure 1951 German film to its Hollywood conception, where Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond transposed the material to the Roaring Twenties and director Wilder cast the brilliant Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon in the starring roles. As well as previously unpublished images, posters, and documents from the MGM archives, this book includes selections from the screenplay, casting notes, on-set production anecdotes, and location shots from the fabled Del Coronado in San Diego (doubling for Florida). In addition, songs and music used in the film's jazz era setting, background information on Chicago during Prohibition, the story of the Broadway and West

End musical versions (one of which starred Tony Curtis), the previously undiscovered television pilot based on the movie, and the ongoing legacy of the most famous drag comedy in film history. Featuring cameo appearances by Arthur Miller, Edward G. Robinson, Al Capone, Tommy Steele, Robert Morse, Tina Louise, and Tom Hanks, *The Official 50th Anniversary Companion* is the first book to tell the full story of *Some Like It Hot* from start to finish, from wig to high heels. About the Author Laurence Maslon is an associate arts professor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He is the author of *The Sound of Music Companion* and *The South Pacific Companion*, and, with Michael Kantor, wrote the documentary series *Broadway: The American Musical* and *Make 'Em Laugh*, and their companion volumes. He lives in New York with his wife, Genevieve, their son, Miles, and their dog, Ruby.