



Buster Keaton Remembered

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Known for his legendary "stone face" and incredible physical gags, Buster Keaton (1895—1966) was a genius of silent-film comedy. Decades after their release, his movies remain unsurpassed marvels of comic invention and mechanical timing. In *Buster Keaton Remembered*, a unique illustrated survey of Keaton's career, Eleanor Keaton, his wife of 26 years, and film historian Jeffrey Vance provide a personal account of this icon of American cinema.

Drawing on professional papers, screenplays, studio records, and scrapbooks, the authors trace Keaton's beginnings in vaudeville, where he perfected his gags; his first silent shorts with Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle; the brilliant features he conceived, directed, produced, and performed in; and his later sound films for M-G-M and others. Fresh prints of classic film stills and never-before-published photos from the Margaret Herrick Library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, together with a lively, anecdotal text, offer a behind-the-scenes look at how Keaton came up with his hilarious ideas, choreographed his elaborate stunts, and crafted his films.

Buster Keaton Remembered Details

Date : Published April 1st 2001 by Harry N. Abrams

ISBN : 9780810942271

Author : Eleanor Keaton , Jeffrey Vance

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

Genre : Culture, Film, Biography, Nonfiction, Media Tie In, Movies, History

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From Reader Review Buster Keaton Remembered for online ebook

Amy says

Keaton was one of a kind. He did all of his own stunts, engineered on the set, and when I watch a film with him in it, silent or not, it's always entertaining! This book engagingly reveals his professional and personal life.

Kiera Beddes says

I've been having a bit of a Buster Keaton run recently. There was a collection of his short films on Hulu that I was marathoning and I just became so fascinated with Old Stone Face. And we all know that I love biographies of actors. So I found this at the library and devoured it in a day. To be fair, there are a lot of photographs included, so it made for fast reading.

I knew some things: his beginnings in vaudeville, his dedication to his craft. But there was a lot about him that this book uncovered: his addiction to alcohol, his terrible two marriages and excellent final one, and his struggles with the studio system in the transition from silent to talking films. There are a lot of similarities to Charlie Chaplin, but like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire, these two masters of comedy are so different, it's like comparing apples to oranges.

I really appreciated the in-depth look at his work, starting with the short films where Buster Keaton basically had complete creative control and later his creative decline as the Hollywood system boxed Keaton in and didn't allow him the space to create like he had in the past. I just felt so bad for him. He as a genius and to be type-cast as a clown and relegated to supporting roles when he was capable of so much more is just so sad. But much later in his life, he had a bit of a Renaissance, which I was glad to see. His work should be required viewing for any aspiring film aficionado.

Frederick says

This is a major collection of posed photos and movie stills from Buster Keaton's career. Even if you've never seen a Buster Keaton movie you'll marvel at the quality of the photography. This is a well-printed book.

TheDailyLuis TheOriginalNews says

One of the best silent film actors of all time.He was amazing in all of his films.

Julia says

A combination oversize coffee table book, photography archive, and biography, includes how to make a pork pie hat. Beautiful, beautiful photographs; stills made while making the movies, from the studios, from the Keaton family. And, a list of every television show he was on and all those minor movies he appeared in and for which he wrote gags; making it easy to look them up on You Tube.

David says

best book ever.

Karla says

This is purely a coffee table book. Not much text, lots of pictures. It's picture porn for any Buster Keaton fan, oversized and glossy. Dazzling and pretty!

It also has the sentimentality of collaboration with Keaton's third (and only good) wife, Eleanor, before her death.

Naomi says

Fantastic photos.

No one man should be this photogenic. Not that I'm complaining...

Jon C Manzo says

Essential for any fan of Keaton. In my honest opinion, he was the best of the silent comedians, and this heavily illustrated retrospective of his life and career is a splendid tribute by his widow. Sadly, she too passed away, not long before the book went into print; I'm glad she completed this remembrance of one of the 20th Century's true artistic geniuses before she went.

Drahcir10001 says

Once you've seen a Keaton feature or short on the big screen there's a chance you'll want to learn more about him. My recommendation is to watch 3 or 4 of his features and as many of his shorts before diving into any of the biographies. Some of them cloud or obfuscate. None of them 'correctly' describe or recommend every single feature and short, and none quite prepare you for the creative athletic balletic majesty of the films when seen on the big screen.

In order I suggest: Ed McPherson (a fan's gentle overview), Buster Keaton Remembered (beautiful large format illustrated memoir by Buster's wife Eleanor), My Wonderful World of Slapstick (Keaton's

autobiography), Rudi Blesh (good biog up to 1929), Kevin Sweeney's 'Interviews' compendium (fascinating detail on the film making) and finally, if you must, Tom Dardis (downbeat, depressing, alternative biog which refreshingly contains uncomfortable truths but so completely removes rose-tinting it quickly sours into a dull and cold-hearted economic, pragmatic assessment of a creative and athletic life).
Recommended films: <http://imdb.com/list/NzLZZFMp3pA>

A says

There isn't much of a biography in this book, but it's really more of a photographic tribute to the life and work of one of the greatest silent comedians. The feeling is intimate and definitely for the fans. A beautiful book for anyone who adores Buster Keaton.

Karen Jones says

Loved the pictures and Eleanor's remembrances of her husband, Buster Keaton. This is a very thorough history of all his work and life events as well.
