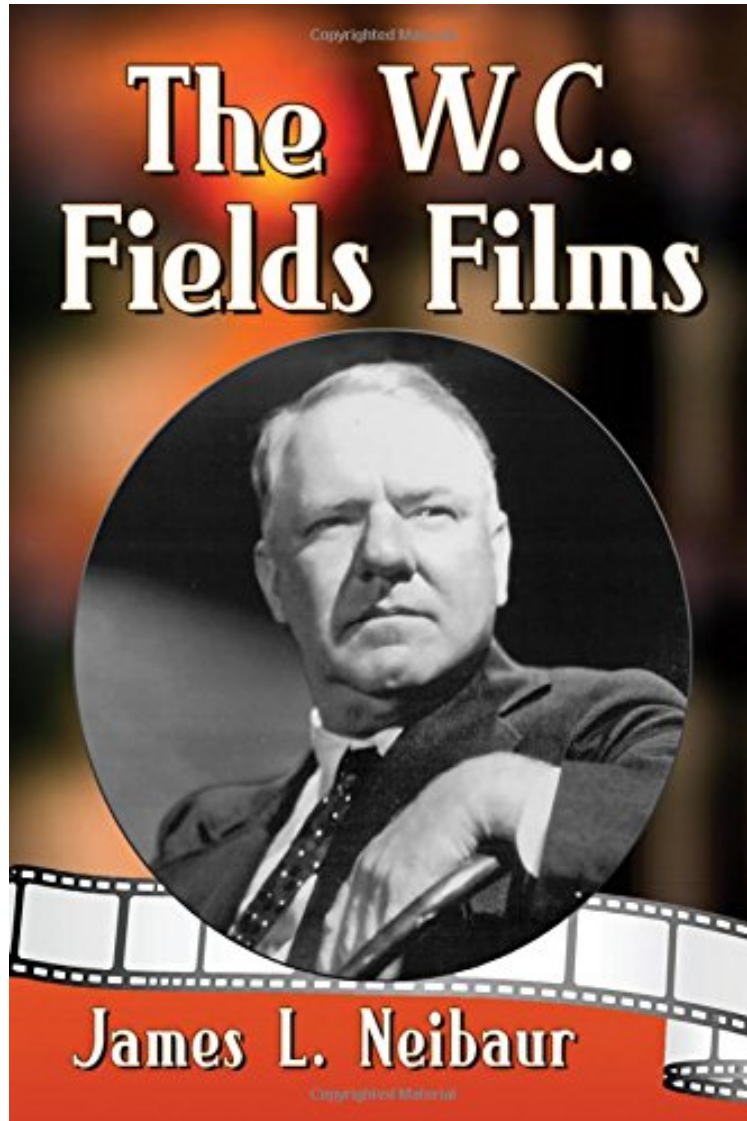


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The W.C. Fields Films

James L. Neibaur

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James L. Neibaur : The W.C. Fields Films before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The W.C. Fields Films:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful companion to Fields filmsBy Mark BlevinsI've been reading through Mr. Neibaur's book as I re-watched some of my favorite Fields films. It's very informative and offers lots of information on the various roles Fields had throughout the years, including his silents of which I had little knowledge. Several of those are apparently lost, but his talkies are the ones that made him a star. I highly recommend this book as a companion to the Fields biography that came out a few years ago by James Curtis. Don't forget to watch

the films, though - they hold up amazingly well and are still hysterical. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fields of dreams...By Nick Santa MariaI just finished reading this terrific book. Fields has my vote for funniest and most original TALKING film comedian of all time (Chaplin wins in the silent film category), and this book does him justice. Jim Neibar is obviously just as enamored of the subject as I am, and his viewpoints are both interesting and refreshing. This is the perfect primer book for anyone interested in learning about the Great Man's films. The only reason I gave it 4 stars out of 5 is that the book ended way too quickly. I wanted more...but only because what preceded it was so very good!7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. W.C. = Wonderful ComediesBy Jerry MuellerDuring the 1960s and 70s, the films of the Marx Brothers and W. C. Fields enjoyed a resurgence in popularity, as their irreverent, anti-social brand of humor reflected the mood of the country and endeared them to a younger generation disillusioned and angered by the current state of affairs. However, resurgence may not be the correct term since some of the films, reappraised as comedy classics, were not big money-makers at the time of their original release. Since then, the Marx comediesselect titles, at leastare still being revived (though to a lesser extent) but the Fields movies are not as prominent as they once were on television and the film-festival circuit. And even though most Fields films are available on DVD, his recognition factor is, sadly, lower than it once was. Today people under a certain age havent a clue who he is or what a vital contribution he made to motion pictures. Like many of the great movie comediansand he definitely is oneit took a while for Fields to define and refine his irascible underdog persona. After starring in a series of silent movies (which were very entertaining despite the obvious drawback of not being able to hear his trademark nasally drawl), Fields hit his prime with some of the funniest comedies ever made: ITS A GIFT, THE MAN ON THE FLYING TRAPEZE, YOURE TELLING ME, THE FATAL GLASS OF BEER, THE OLD FASHIONED WAY and THE BANK DICK among them. As the title indicates, this book chronicles Fields entire cinematic output, and does so in an engaging and informative manner, incorporating biographical data and insightful critiques. Hopefully, it will go a long way in serving as a reminder of (or an introduction to) this master comedian and his important body of work.

W.C. Fields was at the top among comedians during Hollywood's Golden Era of the 1930s and 1940s and has since remained a comic icon. Despite his character's misanthropic, child-hating, alcoholic tendencies, his performances were enduringly popular and Fields became personally defined by them. This critical study of his work provides commentary and background on each of his films, from the early silents through the cameos near the end of his life, with fresh appraisals of his well known classics. Pictures once believed to be lost that have been discovered and restored are discussed, and new information is given on some that remain lost.