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Irving Brecher

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The Wicked Wit of the West

The last great Golden-Age screenwriter shares the hilarity and heartaches of working with Groucho, Garland, Gleason, Burns, Berle, Benny & many more



by **Irving Brecher** as told to **Hank Rosenfeld**

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Irving Brecher : The Wicked Wit of the West: The Last Great Golden-Age Screenwriter Shares the Hilarity and Heartaches of Working with Groucho, Garland, Gleason, B before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wicked Wit of the West: The Last Great Golden-Age Screenwriter

Shares the Hilarity and Heartaches of Working with Groucho, Garland, Gleason, B:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I had high expectations - and this book exceeded themBy tomshermMind you, I'm a nut about the Marx Brothers and the great comedians of that era. Prior to this book I could only view it through old movies and the haze of time. With this delightful book, I get invited to the roundtable - I hear the best stories first hand from a living, breathing sharp-witted participant. I hear all these one liners and I smile. Reading this, I imagine the creativity of the era and I laugh out loud - again and again. Is this a history book and 100% accurate? I doubt it. These stories could be enhanced by his imagination, distorted thru retelling - or a merger of both - it doesn't matter - they are wonderful and they provide a hard-to-find insight of a long-gone era.I am so pleased that Hank Rosenfeld was lucky enough to befriend a man who had a fascinating and funny connection to an important part of American comedic history - and pleased that Irving gave in to the threat of Lysistrata and agreed to publishing these priceless memoirs.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Wicked Wit Shares Insight into Life DeathBy Pamela M. VetterI had to take a moment to tell you how much I love "The Wicked Wit of the West." At a book signing, I heard some of the recorded conversations author Hank Rosenfeld had with screenwriter Irv Brecher. I can tell you that this is one of the most authentic memoirs I've ever read because it uses exact conversations Hank had with Irv. This is a book you will want to read and re-read. It's a keeper. Irv makes you laugh and while there are great stories you've never heard before, it's also peppered with an honest attitude toward death. A meaningful journey has been captured throughout the pages. When you find yourself quoting stories from the book, you know you've found something memorable. This book is a winner!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Fabulous Book!By J. ViolaThis is a truly wonderful book, both a great history of Hollywood and a wonderful insight on the entire Marx brother family.

"Brecher is the most influential writer you've never heard of in Hollywood. He wrote *At the Circus* and *Go West* for the Marx brothers and classics such as *Du Barry Was a Lady* and *Meet Me in St. Louis* for MGM. He wrote stand-up for Milton Berle and created the radio and television program *The Life of Riley*. Now in his nineties, the man is still a comedic genius with wit and timing that can't be beat. Incredibly, his career covers the entire spectrum of 20th-century entertainment, beginning with vaudeville and encompassing movies, radio, plays, television, and even the web (in impassioned support for the writers' strike of 2007). Brecher's story is presented as a series of interviews, which allows his voice to come through in its witty splendor. Rosenfeld does a fine job as chronicler, selector, and muse for these interviews, and his genuine friendship with Brecher is the reason that this book exists. Altogether delightful, this is an incredible reminiscence by a remarkable man." -- Library Journal starred review