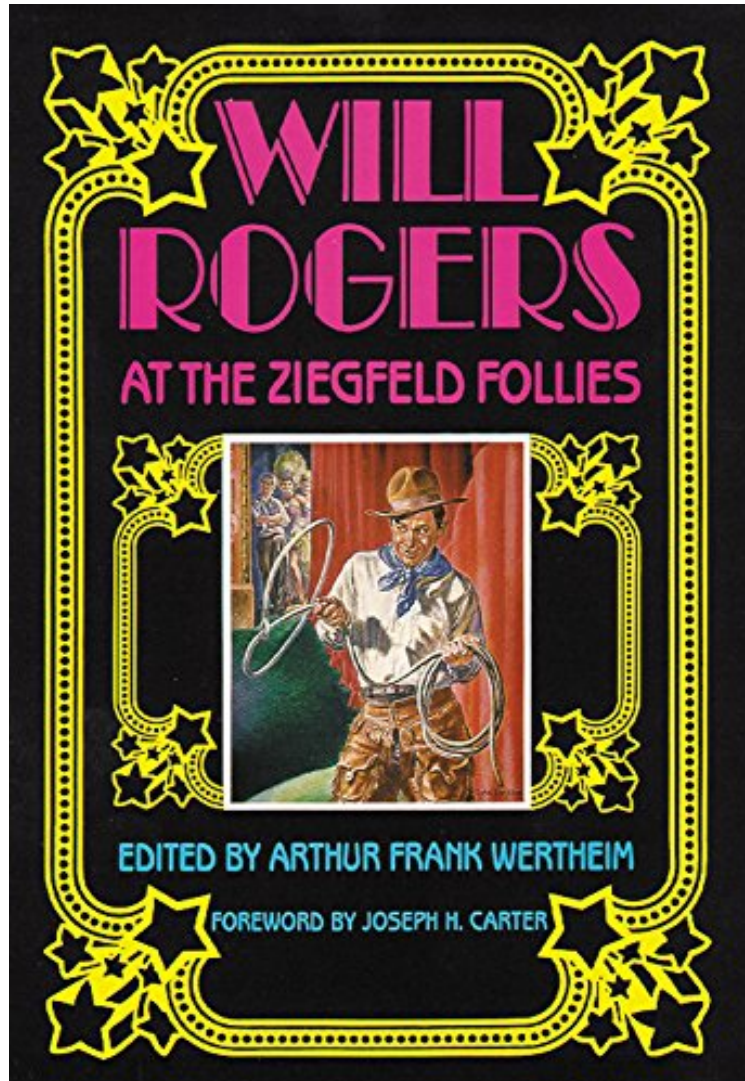


(Ebook free) Will Rogers: At the Ziegfeld Follies

Will Rogers: At the Ziegfeld Follies

Arthur Frank Wertheim

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Arthur Frank Wertheim : Will Rogers: At the Ziegfeld Follies before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Will Rogers: At the Ziegfeld Follies:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The "Oklahoma Cowboy," the "Great Lasso Expert" and the "Lasso King," aka William Penn Adair Rogers By Annie Van Auken The two Will Rogers books fully reproduced in WILL ROGERS AT THE FOLLIES (1992) were barely larger than pamphlets. Both quote material Will had previously used to great success in Ziegfeld Follies spotlight appearances. Here in their entirety are the transcribed 'A' and 'B' sides of two VICTOR 78s Rogers waxed in early 1923. Also presented are a mix of newspaper articles, telegrams, letters, monologue notes, an entire chapter from one of Eddie Cantor's many autobiographies, and portions of books by

Ziegfeld's wife (Billie Burke) and daughter (Patricia). A most useful alphabetized "Who's Who in the Cast" helps sort out McAdoo from McEvoy, William Hart from Max Hart, giving a sentence or two bio for every person mentioned. A Career Highlights section that precedes the main text includes a few interesting tidbits: 1900-- Will meets Teddy Roosevelt at a Rough Riders reunion. 1905-- At a Madison Square Garden horse fair, he helps rope a bull that had gotten into the stands. 1912-- Appears in his first Broadway musical, THE WALL STREET GIRL. 1919-- Leaves Ziegfeld Follies to star in Samuel Goldwyn photoplays, but returns two years later. 1922-- Rogers' first newspaper column, for the McNaught Syndicate. Will also debuted on radio (KDKA, Pittsburgh). 1923-- During a summer break, he makes some Hal Roach comedies. 1929-'35-- Stars in 21 FOX pictures. 1930-- His first radio series, sponsored by the Squibb Co. 1935-- A fatal Alaskan plane crash takes Rogers and pilot Wiley Post. After nearly a century, many of the folks Will comments on have gone beyond obscurity and into irrelevance. This, and his ignorance of spelling and punctuation make reading significant portions of "At the Ziegfeld Follies" a challenge. Much of what set audiences aroar in 1918 for instance doesn't even bring a smile so many years later, yet sprinkled throughout are bits of wisdom with some staying power. Here's just a sample of Rogers quips, written exactly as he typed them out: "The Income Tax has made more Liars out of the American people than Golf has." "There is a fine breed for you, Irish-Indian. Ziegfeld says, I have a touch of the Hebraic in me, too. Which would make me Irish, Indian, Jewish." "My family crest in that case would be Shillalah with a Tomahawk on one end, and a Percent Sign (%) on the other." "It's always the same, the fellow who originates something is generally called a nut. The next fellow comes along takes his Idea improves on it and of course is a smart man." "One thing we got to be thankful for our Soldiers can win wars faster than our Diplomats can talk us into them." "France says they would have more confidence in this League (of Nations) if they would slip a couple of Nations in between them and Germany." "Prohibition takes all the fun out of voting, who wants to vote if there's no place to stop on the way home. Besides one has to be about half drunk to vote for most of the candidates they run nowadays." "Why not settle this Prohibition Fifty-Fifty. Let the Prohibitionists quit drinking." "Now we made a mistake in the last war by fighting it on credit. The next war has got to be C.O.D." "You know, the more you read and observe about this Politics thing, the more you've got to admit that each party is worse than the other. The one that's out always looks the best." "Now when they got the Constitution all fixed up, they are going to start in on the Ten Commandments, just as soon as they find somebody in Washington who has read them." "I see where another wife out on Long Island here in New York shot her husband, season opened a month earlier this year." 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An admirable man on many counts By Keith Nichols For the Will Rogers fan or scholar this may provide an interesting compilation of monologues, articles, and performance information gathered from public sources. This is the only book on Rogers that I've read, so I can't judge how it complements or duplicates previous works. I will say that the book evoked considerable respect for Rogers as a man and for Florenz Ziegfeld as a loyal friend, although Ziegfeld is seen only in his relationship to Rogers. The Ziegfeld Follies of Rogers' time were in New York's New Amsterdam Theatre, and later in the evening, a cabaret show was put on in the theatre's roof garden. Rogers appeared in both shows, performing rope tricks accompanied by his humorous monologues -- a different one for each show. Rogers typed the monologues each morning after combing the daily papers for news of the political figures and events of the day. At a remove of 80 years or so, many of the jokes are not particularly amusing, although the last section of the book explains briefly who many of the people referred to were. Rogers saved all his typewritten routines and newspaper columns, etc., and those selected for this book are reproduced verbatim. Since Rogers seems to have been practicing roping during English classes, his compositions betray little understanding of standard capitalization, grammar, or punctuation, thereby requiring the reader to supply a lot of that in order to make sense of a good many of the comments.

Will Rogers and Florenz Ziegfeld are two magic names in show business. Today Rogers is considered America's most beloved humorist, while Ziegfeld is recognized as the most flamboyant impresario in the history of the American musical theatre. Rogers was one of Ziegfeld's greatest comedy stars, performing in six editions of the Follies from 1916 to 1925. "Ziggy gave me my start," he once said. It was on the Follies stage that he began to joke extensively about current events and to poke fun at celebrities. Will Rogers at the Ziegfeld Follies features the humorist's writings and poignant observations on society during World War I and the Roaring Twenties. Included in this unique collection are two of Rogers' most popular books, The Cowboy Philosopher on the Peace Conference and The Cowboy Philosopher on Prohibition. In selections from his weekly articles and The Illiterate Digest, Rogers lampoons the leading figures of the day, from Henry Ford and William Jennings Bryan to Presidents Wilson, Harding, and Coolidge. In these pages the reader will discover how the Follies brought national fame to Rogers and led him to new careers as a newspaper columnist, film star, radio performer, and popular speaker. His extraordinarily versatile talent is demonstrated by his first syndicated newspaper column, comic routines from his Victor phonograph recordings, a speech to the American Bankers Association, and many other witty pieces that are still very relevant to our own time. Included here are Rogers' writings that have never been published: selections from the entertainers' gag book, notes, and correspondence. In a fascinating exchange of telegrams and letters, the book brings to life the rare friendship between Rogers and Ziegfeld. It also spotlights Will's relationship with two other famous Ziegfeld comedians, Eddie Cantor and W.C. Fields. As the

only book dealing with Will Rogers on the stage, this volume fills an important gap in the life story of the humorist. Will Rogers at the Ziegfeld Follies recreates an exciting era when audiences laughed at the homespun humor of this legendary national figure—one of the most popular and influential Americans of the twentieth century.

From Publishers Weekly Rogers (1879-1936) was not only one of his era's most popular performers on stage, screen, radio and records, he was also noted as a comic writer for a syndicated newspaper column he began in 1922. Born in Oklahoma, he first appeared in the theater in 1905 when he played the part of a cowboy doing rope tricks; Rogers began making asides to the audience, and soon his skill as a monologist eclipsed his talents with a lasso. He appeared in various versions of the Follies (where he formed close friendships with entrepreneur Flo Ziegfeld and fellow comics W. C. Fields and Eddie Cantor) from 1915 to 1925, and he changed his patter nightly to comment on what he had read in the day's newspapers—an innovation at the time. While some of the material selected by Wertheim, the editor of Rogers's papers, seems naive and innocent today, it establishes that Rogers was the father of a comic tradition that would eventually include Mark Russell, Mort Sahl and Lenny Bruce. This volume makes a significant contribution to show-biz history. Illustrations include photos, playbills, posters. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Will Rogers and Florenz Ziegfeld are two magic names in show business. Today Rogers is considered America's most beloved humorist, while Ziegfeld is recognized as the most flamboyant impresario in the history of the American musical theatre. Rogers was one of Ziegfeld's greatest comedy stars, performing in six editions of the Follies from 1916 to 1925. "Ziggy gave me my start", he once said. It was on the Follies stage that he began to joke extensively about current events and to poke fun at celebrities. Will Rogers at the Ziegfeld Follies features the humorist's writings and poignant observations on society during World War I and the Roaring Twenties. Included in this unique collection are two of Rogers' most popular books, *The Cowboy Philosopher on the Peace Conference* and *The Cowboy Philosopher on Prohibition*. In selections from his weekly articles and *The Illiterate Digest*, Rogers lampoons the leading figures of the day, from Henry Ford and William Jennings Bryan to Presidents Wilson, Harding, and Coolidge. In these pages the reader will discover how the Follies brought national fame to Rogers and led him to new careers as a newspaper columnist, film star, radio performer, and popular speaker. His extraordinarily versatile talent is demonstrated by his first syndicated newspaper column, comic routines from his Victor phonograph recordings, a speech to the American Bankers' Association, and many other witty pieces that are still very relevant to our own time. Included here are Rogers writings that have never been published: selections from the entertainer's gag book, notes, and correspondence. In a fascinating exchange of telegrams and letters, the book brings to life the rare friendship between Rogers and Ziegfeld. It also spotlights Will's relationship with two other famous Ziegfeld comedians, Eddie Cantor and W. C. Fields. As the only book dealing with Will Rogers on the stage, this volume fills an important gap in the life story of the humorist. Will Rogers at the Ziegfeld Follies recreates an exciting era when audiences laughed at the homespun humor of this legendary national figure - one of the most popular and influential Americans of the twentieth century.