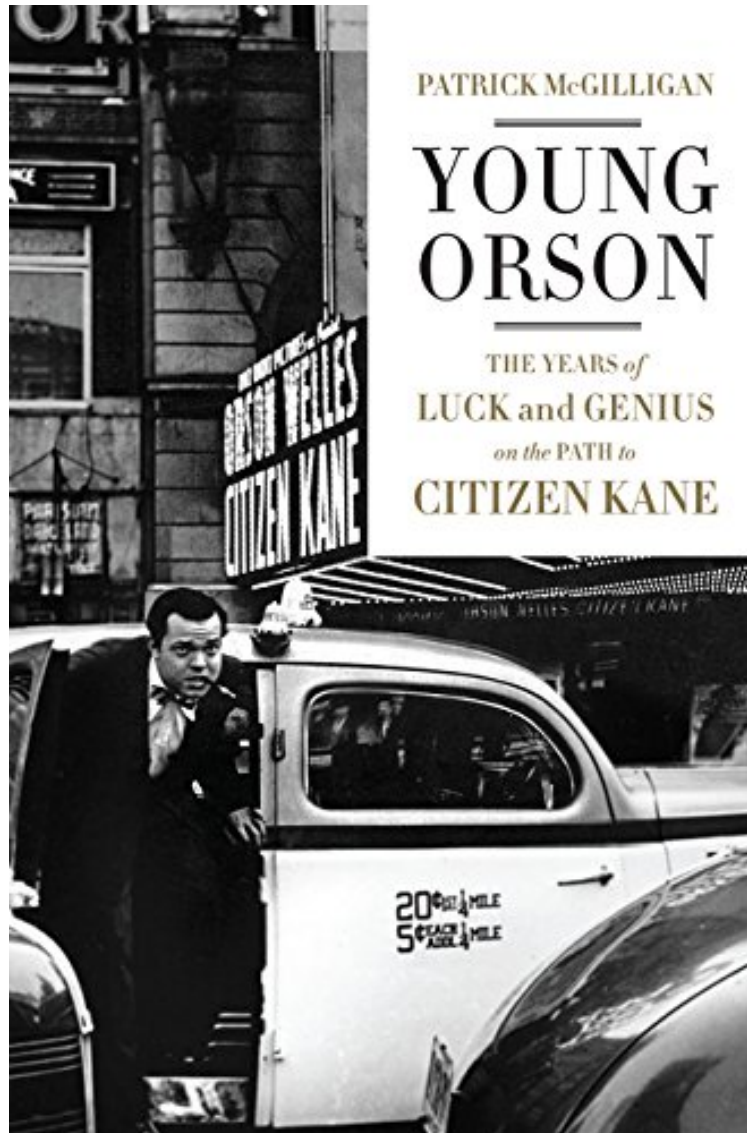


(Download) Young Orson: The Years of Luck and Genius on the Path to Citizen Kane

Young Orson: The Years of Luck and Genius on the Path to Citizen Kane

Patrick McGilligan

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Patrick McGilligan : Young Orson: The Years of Luck and Genius on the Path to Citizen Kane before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Young Orson: The Years of Luck and Genius on the Path to Citizen Kane:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Readable Book - I recommend it highlyBy Kindle

CustomerI have been a fan of Orson Welles for many years. I especially like the movie "The Trial" in which he was a supporting actor as well as a director. [I am also a long time fan of Franz Kafka.] The book is very readable and I would recommended it to a friend who has an interest in Orson's career. The book is very comprehensive and after you have read it, you will learn all you need to know about Orson and how he became a great artist. If you are an Orson Wells fan, this is the book for you.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For an enthusiastBy Ha1rExhaustive, well written narrative that limns the setting for the emergence of a singular character. More than I was expecting to hear about his family and childhood, but starting in adolescence, more interesting.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful chronicle of Orson Welles' early life.By Vintage Film BuffBeautifully written, exhaustively researched, this wonderful biography closes the circle on the life and times of a true genius. Another scrupulous work by McGilligan. Bravo!

On the centennial of his birth, the defining wunderkind of modern entertainment gets his due in a groundbreaking new biography of his early yearsfrom his first forays in theater and radio to the inspiration and making of Citizen Kane.In the history of American popular culture, there is no more dramatic storyno swifter or loftier ascent to the pinnacle of success and no more tragic downfallthan that of Orson Welles. In this magisterial biography, Patrick McGilligan brings young Orson into focus as never before. He chronicles Welless early life growing up in Wisconsin and Illinois as the son of an alcoholic industrialist and a radical suffragist and classical musician, and the magical early years of his career, including his marriage and affairs, his influential friendships, and his artistic collaborations.The tales of his youthful achievements were so colorful and improbable that Welles, with his air of mischief, was often thought to have made them up. Now after years of intensive research, McGilligan sorts out fact from fiction and reveals untold, fully documented anecdotes of Welless first exploits and triumphs, from starring as a teenager on the Gate Theatre stage in Dublin and bullfighting in Sevilla, to his time in the New York theater and his fraught partnership with John Houseman in the Mercury Theatre, to his arrival in Hollywood and the making of Citizen Kane. Filled with intriguing new insights and startling revelationsincluding the surprising true origin and meaning of RosebudYoung Orson is a fascinating look at the creative development and influences that shaped this legendary artistic genius.

[Young Orson] takes the directorial hero from his birth to the threshold of Citizen Kane. Ive only just started it and can so far confess to fascination and pleasure; the wealth of detail and the measured tempo are up to the Shakespearean complexity of Welless character. (New Yorker)McGilligans Orson is a Welles for a new generation. . . .McGilligans book vibrates with uncertainty and risk, and it hums with the possibility that talented people actually can realize their dreams in the forms they choose. (BookForum)No one writes biographies of film legends like Patrick McGilligan. . . . It is a meticulous recreation of Welless life and achievement up to 1941. (Daily Beast)Welless native brilliance and his ascent from producing plays as a boy at the Todd School to his conquest of New York theater and radio as an adult has seldom been documented with more clarity. (Library Journal (starred review))To read this book is to be taken with just how much meaningful work [Welles] packed into his youth, and awestruck by the self-assurance with which he approached his burgeoning career. . . . With McGilligans superb biography, we have the definitive portrait of Welles in his youth. (San Francisco Chronicle Book)Engrossing . . . Exhaustively researched but well-paced and stuffed with beguiling detail, this is a vivid, sympathetic portrait of Welless youthful promise and achievement, before the misfires and compromises of his later years. (Publishers Weekly)A richly detailed, often nuanced study of Welles life and work. Its a welcome addition to the burgeoning shelf of books on one of Americas most distinctive talents. . . . Although Young Orson reads easily, it is powered by an evenhanded, almost scholarly rigor. (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)Must reading for anyone interested in the history of film. (Mark Levine, Booklist (starred review))Exhaustively researched but well-paced and stuffed with beguiling detail, this is a vivid, sympathetic portrait of Welless youthful promise and achievement, before the misfires and compromises of his later years. (Publishers Weekly)An indefatigable reporter and masterful biographer, McGilligan has unearthed endless revelations that will change our view of Welless. This book is a constant joy to read, showing that the truth about Welless upbringing and youthful artistic triumphs is even more remarkable than the legend. (Joseph McBride, author of What Ever Happened to Orson Welles? and Searching for John Ford)No other biographer has done such a superb job of investigating Orson Welless Midwestern origins and dazzling early success. McGilligan convincingly refutes untruths and myths that others have accepted. This is by far the best book on the most formative period of Welless life. (James Naremore, author of The Magic World of Orson Welles)A prodigious and illuminating account of the extraordinary life of Orson Welles up to when he turned from theater and radio to launch his fabled movie career. McGilligan blends valuable new reporting with insights from existing sources to draw a bold portrait of the master that can fairly be called definitive. (George Stevens, Jr., producer and founder of the American Film Institute)In many ways,Young Orson is my favorite of all the Welles biographies to date. The overall portrait of Welless character and background that emerges, uncharacteristically sympathetic, is both dense and persuasive - and a page-turning pleasure to read. (Jonathan Rosenbaum, author of Goodbye Cinema, Hello Cinephilia)From the Back CoverA remarkable, eye-opening biography . . . McGilligans Orson is a Welles for a new generation, [a portrait] in tune with Patti Smiths Just Kids.A.

S. Hamrah, Bookforum No American artist or entertainer has enjoyed a more dramatic rise than Orson Welles. At the age of sixteen, he charmed his way into a precocious acting debut in Dublins Gate Theatre. By nineteen, he had published a book on Shakespeare and toured the United States. At twenty, he directed a landmark all-black production of Macbeth in Harlem, and the following year masterminded the legendary WPA production of Marc Blitzsteins agitprop musical The Cradle Will Rock. After founding the Mercury Theatre, he mounted a radio production of The War of the Worlds that made headlines internationally. Then, at twenty-four, Welles signed a Hollywood contract granting him unprecedented freedom as a writer, director, producer, and starpaving the way for the creation of Citizen Kane, considered by many to be the greatest film in history. Drawing on years of deep research, acclaimed biographer Patrick McGilligan conjures the young mans Wisconsin background with Dickensian richness and detail: his childhood as the second son of a troubled industrialist father and a musically gifted, politically active mother; his youthful immersion in theater, opera, and magic in nearby Chicago; his teenage sojourns through rural Ireland, Spain, and the Far East; and his emergence as a maverick theater artist. Sifting fact from legend, McGilligan unearths long-buried writings from Welless school years; delves into his relationships with mentors Dr. Maurice Bernstein, Roger Hill, and Thornton Wilder; explores his partnerships with producer John Houseman and actor Joseph Cotten; reveals the truth of his marriage to actress Virginia Nicolson and rumored affairs with actresses Dolores Del Rio and Geraldine Fitzgerald (including a suspect paternity claim); and traces the story of his troubled brother, Dick Welles, whose mysterious decline ran counter to Orsons swift ascent. And, through it all, we watch in awe as this whirlwind of talenthailed hopefully from boyhood as a genius collects the raw material that he and his co-writer, the cantankerous Herman J. Mankiewicz, would mold into the story of Charles Foster Kane. Filled with insight and revelation including the surprising true origin and meaning of Rosebud Young Orson is an eye-opening look at the arrival of a talent both monumental and misunderstood. About the Author Patrick McGilligan is the author of Alfred Hitchcock: A Life in Darkness and Light; Fritz Lang: The Nature of the Beast; and George Cukor: A Double Life; and books on the lives of directors Nicholas Ray, Robert Altman, and Oscar Micheaux, and actors James Cagney, Jack Nicholson, and Clint Eastwood. He also edited the acclaimed five-volume Backstory series of interviews with Hollywood screenwriters and (with Paul Buhle), the definitive Tender Comrades: A Backstory of the Hollywood Blacklist. He lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, not far from Kenosha, where Orson Welles was born.