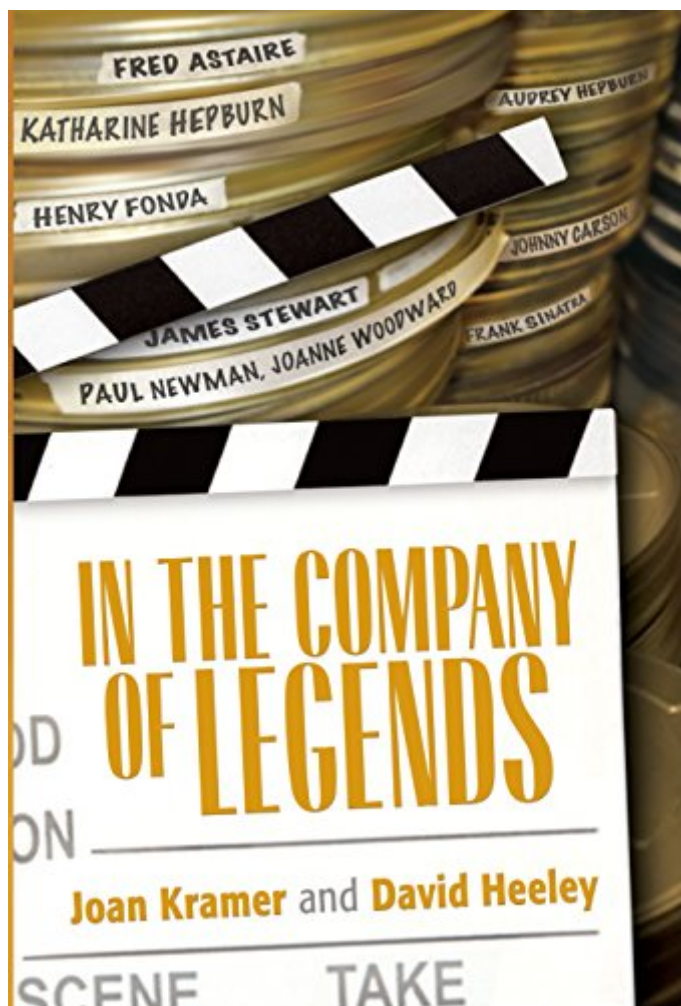


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In The Company Of Legends



Synopsis

Starting with their award winning profiles of Fred Astaire in 1980, Joan Kramer and David Heeley documented the lives and careers of many Hollywood legends, establishing a reputation for finding the un-findable, persuading the reluctant, and maintaining unique relationships long after the end credits rolled. These were recognized as high-quality, definitive film portraits, which revitalized the genre and made it a mainstay of television programming. This is their insiders' view of the famous and the powerful: Katharine Hepburn, James Stewart, Johnny Carson, Frank Sinatra, Lew Wasserman, Ronald Reagan, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Jane Fonda, Richard Dreyfuss, Audrey Hepburn, and Bette Davis, among others. Kramer and Heeley's behind the scenes stories of the productions and the personalities involved are amusing, sometimes moving, often revealing, and have never been told before.

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Customer Reviews

In The Company of Legends is a behind the scenes account of movie stars that we all would like to

know more about. Both the authors had an up close relationship with such stars as James Stewart, Katharine Hepburn, Jo Anne Woodward, Elizabeth Taylor and many more. I read half the book right away because I couldn't put it down. It's written in a format that is easy to read. This book has everything that you would want to know about the rich and powerful people of Hollywood. I highly recommend this book and you won't be sorry in purchasing this book.

This book is a treat for anyone who's enjoyed great documentary profiles of--to name a few--Fred Astaire, Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, James Stewart, Henry Fonda, Errol Flynn, Columbia Pictures, Universal Pictures, the Group Theater, and so on. It's a series of delightful stories, in alternating narration, basically a "making of" documentary in print form about the making of those documentaries. The authors obviously faced challenges, and you'll get a whole education (implied) not only in how important it is to do good work and be trusted but also in how important it is to know someone who can make the right phone call at the right time. The whole book is interesting, informative, and tasteful, and you get a good sense of what it must be like to work with the Hollywood legends. And the author keep everything upbeat (a plus) so that even their encounters with more difficult stars, archives, agents, and studios are related in a way that still respects those points of view.

The authors did a good job of telling the reader how it felt meeting and interviewing all of the screen and TV legends. To do what they did takes much research and tact. I thoroughly admire their work, having seen a lot of it!

This is a pleasant little books providing details about the creation of documentary films about famous movie stars like Kathrine Hepburn, James Stewart and others. It offers some interesting insights into the complexities of the work as well as the subjects themselves. No real dirty details or explosive revaluations. The authors provide excruciating details (travel, scheduling, meals, etc.) perhaps in an effort to increase the size of the book to meet publication standards, One has to wade thru this dull material to get to the nuggets. But some of the information is interesting and insightful. Good if you are a fan of this generation of entertainers. Otherwise not worth the effort.

Excellent read about many interesting celebrities interviewed by the authors for mostly Pbs & the like specials. What was especially refreshing is the stories are not tabloid tales , but interesting insight into the lives of some of the most beloved stars. Very enjoyable read.

Very much enjoyed this one. One way I know I've got a good book is how many times I leave it to go to YouTube or Google after my curiosity gets piqued at one time or another. After reading the behind-the-scenes account of some of the documentaries/biographies detailed in the book, I went to YouTube and looked at one (the Spencer Tracy Tribute) and enjoyed it tremendously. It was even more fun watching it after reading all the things the authors had to go through just to get it finished. Charming, funny book. I guess I never realized all the things involved in creating a production of this magnitude, from someone assigned to cover Kate Hepburn's furniture with plastic (cute story!) to everyone who allows (or won't allow) film clips, songs, etc., to be used. Highly recommend.

this was a fascinating read. something very different and insightful and fun. most of the stories center around Katherine Hepburn, who was a true gem to the authors and did everything she could to assist them in getting their productions made. I went through this book so fast (in an evening) that I almost forgot about it afterwards. it is nothing particularly profound, but definitely so enjoyable to read about all these people...who were just people wanting to do their job. I forgot they were all major celebrities and came to realize how much work goes into making a film of any kind but especially these tribute/documentary films. all the travel and cajoling of participants. wow! I was so disappointed in the bit about Bette Davis; she certainly could shoot herself in the foot. it would have been lovely to have seen a tribute to her and her work. and Audrey Hepburn was the class act that one could expect. Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward --- especially Joanne -- how terrific they were. and how wonderful that the writers became close intimate friends with so many of their subjects. I really did feel as if I were in the company of legends as I read.

Joan Kramer and David Heeley are documentary film makers who have made films about well known actors like Fred Astaire and Katherine Hepburn just to name 2 of their subjects. The stories behind the making of their films are included in this book. David was the director of the films and Joan was the interviewer. I found it very interesting that each film project had its own unique challenges. Having watched some of these documentaries, the film about Jimmy Stewart hosted by Johnny Carson and the film about Spencer Tracy hosted by Katherine Hepburn and featuring Tracy's daughter, were informative and entertaining. Highly recommended. You can read this book in one sitting !

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