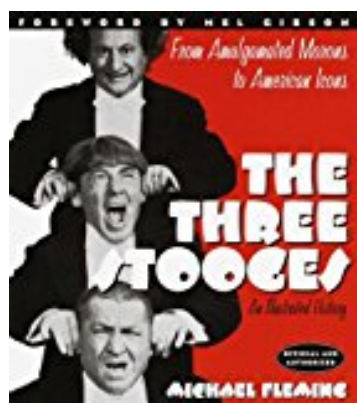


[PDF] The Three Stooges: An Illustrated History, From Amalgamated Morons To American Icons

Michael Fleming - pdf download free book



Books Details:

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Description:

The Three Stooges are admittedly an acquired taste. To fully appreciate them, as with racing, practical jokes, and Steely Dan, it helps to be a guy. But there's no denying the durability of the

Stooges' fearless physical performances. Every eye poke, noggin crack, face slap, and nyuk-nyuk-nyuk feels as edgy today as it did in their earliest two-reelers, and it's safe to say that their routines, for better or worse, helped pave the way for the Farrelly brothers, the Zucker brothers, Adam Sandler, and Jim Carrey.

Michael Fleming, a columnist for *Daily Variety*, has diligently compiled the history of the Stooges, from their vaudeville days through the height of their fame in the '30s to the '50s and beyond. What *An Illustrated History* lacks in clear organization it more than makes up for in attention to detail, about the lives of Moe Howard, Larry Fine, and Curly Howard (plus the other "third Stooges," Shemp Howard, Joe Besser, and Curly Joe DeRita); the genesis of their routines; and the heavy-handed business deals that left them, the most successful comedians of their day, with virtually no residual income. The book's best segment dissects each two-reeler and film (including *Men in Black*, the only Stooge short to be nominated for an Oscar), with a wealth of publicity photos and a tally of slaps, eye pokes, and head conks. Might Fleming make even non-Stooge fans appreciate their humor? Why, *soitenly*. --Anne Hurley

From Love 'em or hate 'em, the Three Stooges are Hollywood icons. Fleming definitely loves 'em and presents a vital chronicle of their career. The classic Stooge lineup of Moe, Larry, and Curly dominates the book, but Shemp, producer-director Jules White, various family members (notably Moe's daughter Joan, a Stooge scholar in her own right), and the lesser Stooges of the post-Shemp era aren't neglected. Fleming sets down dates and references in a highly readable chronology that sets the Stooge saga straight and deflates such misconceptions as the myth that the Stooges never got a raise. Salaries cited in pertinent documents attest that the Stooges, though exploited by legendary Columbia studio boss Harry Cohn, did get regular raises. Fleming summarizes all 190 Stooges shorts and tallies slaps, eye pokes, head conks, and pies thrown for each. The Stooges' Oscar nomination, their send-up of Hitler that preceded Chaplin's, and their career assist to Frank Capra are all mentioned, too. Every self-respecting movie-book collection has to have this gem. *Mike Tribby*

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