

The Hollywood Comedies of Frank Tashlin: A Master of Laughter



Tashlinesque: The Hollywood Comedies of Frank

Tashlin (Wesleyan Film) by Ethan de Seife

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 273 pages



In the annals of Hollywood comedy, few names shine brighter than Frank Tashlin. A visionary director, animator, and screenwriter, Tashlin left an enduring mark on the cinematic landscape with his uproarious and unforgettable films.

Now, in the captivating book "The Hollywood Comedies of Frank Tashlin" (Wesleyan Film), film historian and critic Robert Polito unveils the fascinating world of this comedic genius. Through insightful analysis and unprecedented archival research, Polito paints a vibrant portrait of Tashlin's creative process, his signature style, and his profound influence on the art of laughter.

Delving into Tashlin's Unique Vision

Tashlin's comedies are a riotous blend of slapstick, satire, and surrealism. His films are characterized by their vibrant visuals, breakneck pacing, and a wicked sense of humor. Polito delves into the filmmaker's unique approach to comedy, exploring his use of exaggeration, absurdity, and visual puns.

From the antics of Jerry Lewis in "The Geisha Boy" to the zany adventures of Bob Hope and Lucille Ball in "Sorrowful Jones," Tashlin's films are a testament to his boundless creativity and his uncanny ability to find humor in the most unexpected places.

Groundbreaking Techniques and Innovations

Beyond his comedic brilliance, Tashlin was also a master of cinematic technique. Polito examines Tashlin's pioneering use of animation, split-screen effects, and freeze frames, which added an extra layer of chaos and absurdity to his films.

Tashlin's groundbreaking techniques pushed the boundaries of comedy and paved the way for future generations of filmmakers. His influence can be seen in the work of directors such as Woody Allen, Mel Brooks, and Wes Anderson.

A Timeless Legacy of Laughter

Frank Tashlin's comedies have delighted audiences for decades, and their impact continues to be felt in the world of entertainment. Polito explores Tashlin's enduring legacy, highlighting his influence on television, animation, and beyond.

Through interviews with Tashlin's collaborators and friends, Polito provides an intimate glimpse into the filmmaker's life and work. He reveals the inspirations behind Tashlin's creations and the enduring appeal of his comedic vision.

"The Hollywood Comedies of Frank Tashlin" is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the history of comedy, film technique, or the enduring power of laughter.

Robert Polito's meticulous research and engaging writing style make this book a fascinating and entertaining read. In its pages, you will rediscover the genius of Frank Tashlin and gain a new appreciation for his timeless contribution to the art of cinematic comedy.

Whether you're a seasoned film buff or a newcomer to Tashlin's hilarious world, "The Hollywood Comedies of Frank Tashlin" is a must-read that will leave you laughing out loud and eager to explore the filmography of this comedic master.

About the Author

Robert Polito is a professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of several books on film, including "Savage Cinema" and "Hollywood Babylon II."

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