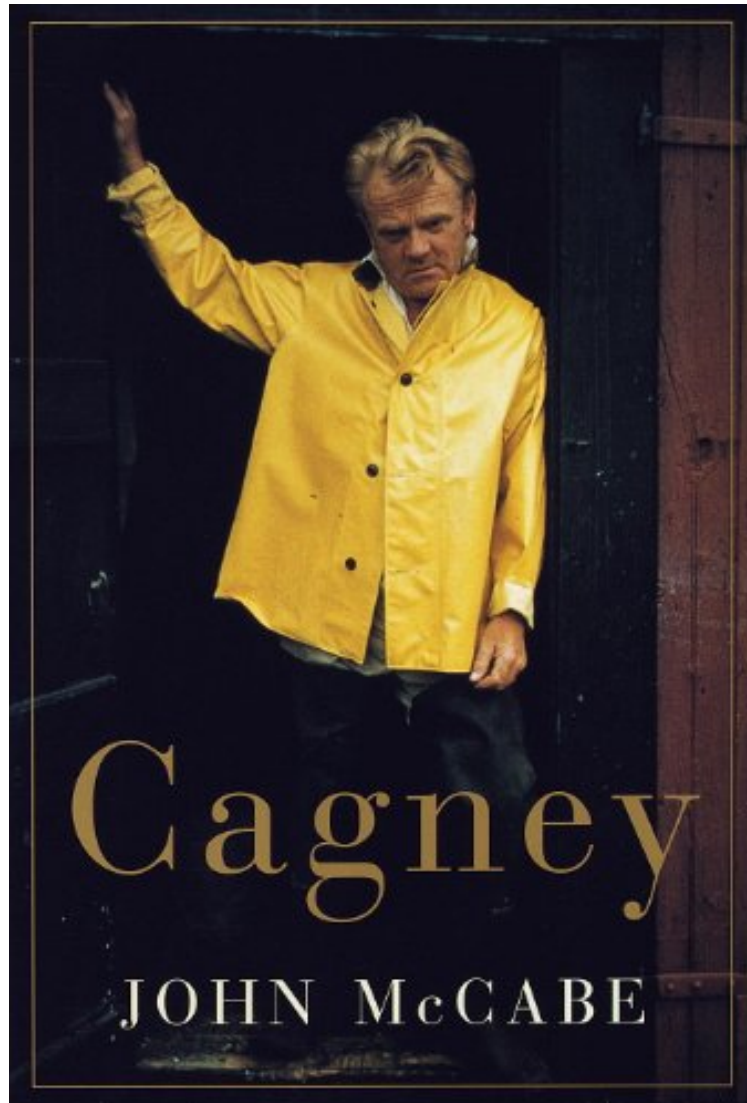


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Cagney

Von John McCabe

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Von John McCabe : Cagney before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cagney:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Honest Look At A Remarkable LifeVon John Kenrick (jbk@corcoran.com)I love John McCabe's definitive bio of Goerge M. Cohan, and admired the fine job he did ghosting James Cagney's delightful autobiography, so I had high expectations for this book. I was not disappointed. McCabe knows how to put readers in touch with another time and place, which makes his subjects come alive on the page. He also knows how to deal sensitively yet frankly with the

real person that lives and breathes behind the facade of public celebrity. Cohan was a complicated character, but McCabe made his eccentricities understandable. What he did for Cohan, he does here for Cagney. The reader gets a real sense of what formed this one-of-a-kind personality, and a deepened respect for a legendary talent. Some have complained because this book covers some of Cagney's negative qualities, de-mythologizing a great star, but I think that's taking it the wrong way. Seeing Cagney honestly makes his real accomplishments that much more impressive. He was no plaster saint, but a flesh and blood man with flaws and foibles -- that's why his success was so amazing. A street kid from the East Side slums, he had more integrity and genuine class than many a blueblood -- that's why he was so admired by those who worked with him, and why so many still respond to his performances. McCabe's genuine affection for Cagney is evident, but it does not prevent the author from writing candidly. There is no scandal mongering here -- just an honest yet sympathetic look at a unique man. Its beautifully written and has some great photos -- many of which are rare. If you are interested in Cagney and looking for a great read, grab this one.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The definitive biography of Cagney

Von Thug's Ma

While it is true in a .com review (below) that McCabe "is in love with his subject," there is little NOT to be in love with about James Cagney. This is the definitive biography about Cagney, and one appreciates that it is not a kiss and tell all. Cagney would not allow such self-indulgent blather from a biographer, much less himself. Cagney guarded his privacy -- he was a man's man not given to drivelling displays, tell all accounts, trashing others, or sob stories. As a 35-year-old female, I am so tired the American pastime of crying about our horrible childhoods and blaming our troubled psyches on others. With our nation's leader gracing the tube to describe his underwear and feel our pain, I long for men who cry in private -- or at least cry about the right things. Cagney might weep about the beauty of horse races or sentimental Irish storytelling, but he certainly wasn't going to keener over himself. This book shows a no-nonsense man who looked his impoverished childhood square in the eye and appreciated it for the strength and character he derived. There's nothing to feel sorry for, only an example to emulate. Which as I did as a child, when I first read the 1970s autobiography (ghostwritten by McCabe) "Cagney by Cagney." Cagney could have ended up in Sing Sing like many of his childhood pals. He struggled on the streets of Hell's Kitchen and adored an irresponsible, incurable alcoholic of a father. Jim was the "rearguard tough" in a street gang, but held himself above it. He battled with his talented fists, and studying the footwork of boxers kept him relatively free of injury while contributing to the quickness and grace he gained later as a dancer. It was his tough, yet loving Ma who saved the brace of Cagneys, four rough Irish sons and a daughter, from the streets. She emphasized education and a profession. Two of the Cagney sons became doctors, one a businessman, and the daughter an actress. Then there is the incomparable Jim. This book is a solid read on the life and perspectives of this incredible man -- a fast-talking, fleet-footed, quick-fisted sprite with the heart of a giant, and the sense, discipline and hard-working ethic of an immigrant family sage. People took care of themselves back then and didn't look for handouts or people to blame. Cagney didn't put much stock in being a star. When Warner Brothers tried to shirk on raising his salary in the 30s, he quit show business to contemplate medical school at Columbia. He later became an accomplished equestrian, painter, guitarist, and writer of verse. Cagney, "a faraway fella," as pal and fellow actor Pat O'Brien described, didn't fall into the Hollywood crowd or gain the unbearable pretensions of celebrity. He was modest and grounded at all times. It's an inspirational book that shows that success can go hand in hand with a stable life. He found peace in his farm and wild things. He kept his life free from bad publicity and controversy. He truly believed that the lowliest laborer behind the camera was as important as he. Everyone who successfully puts food on the table and does his best everyday is a success. Such was Cagney's grasp on life. He was a true hero in every sense of the word -- not for being a Hollywood star -- but for being an extremely decent man. Quote upon quote by notable performers and writers describe Cagney as the finest man, and most solid American, they ever knew. This book, delightfully written by McCabe, goes a long way to showing how people ought to conduct themselves. McCabe has written other books -- his book on George M. Cohan was comprehensive as well. McCabe should be, as Cagney would say, "given the palm."

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Definitive biography

Von Thug's Ma

While it is true that McCabe is in love with his subject, there is little NOT to be in love with about James Cagney. This is the definitive biography about Cagney, and one appreciates that it is not a kiss and tell all. Cagney would not allow such self-indulgent blather from himself, much less a biographer. Cagney guarded his privacy -- he was a man's man not given to driveling displays, tell all accounts, trashing others, or sob stories. I am so tired of the American pastime of crying about our horrible childhoods and blaming our troubled psyches on others. Cagney might weep about the beauty of horse races or sentimental Irish storytelling, but he certainly wasn't going to keener over himself. This book shows a no-nonsense man who looked his impoverished childhood square in the eye and appreciated it for the strength and character he derived. There's nothing to feel sorry for, only an example to emulate. Which as I did as a child, when I first read the 1970s autobiography (ghostwritten by McCabe) "Cagney by Cagney." Cagney could have ended up in Sing Sing like many of his childhood pals. He struggled on the streets of Hell's Kitchen and adored an irresponsible, incurable alcoholic of a father. Jim was the rearguard tough in a street gang, but held himself above it. He battled with his talented fists, and studying the footwork of boxers kept him relatively free of injury while contributing to the quickness and grace he gained later as a dancer. It was his tough, yet loving Ma who saved the brace of Cagneys, four Irish sons and a daughter, from the streets. She emphasized education

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Kurzbeschreibung John McCabe's participation in the writing of James Cagney's autobiography, the many years of friendship that followed, and an intense period of interview and discussion in preparation for a musical comedy based on Cagney's life--a show that never saw the light of day--make him Cagney's ideal biographer. And, indeed, he has written a searching chronicle of this major actor's life and career, packed with history and anecdote, and profusely illustrated. Cagney came from a poor Irish-American New York family but once he found his mtier as an actor, it was not long before he was recognized as a brilliantly energetic and powerful phenomenon. After the tremendous impact of Public Enemy--in which he notoriously pushed half a grapefruit into Mae Clarke's face--he was typecast as a gangster because of the terrifying violence that seemed to be pent up within him. Years of pitched battle with Warner Brothers finally liberated him from those roles, and he went on to star in such triumphs as the musicals Yankee Doodle Dandy (winning the 1942 Oscar for best actor) and Love Me or Leave Me. Even so, one of his greatest later roles involved a return to crime--as the psychopathic killer in the terrifying White Heat. He retired from films in 1961 after making Billy Wilder's One, Two, Three, only to return twenty years later for Ragtime. But however much Cagney personified violence and explosive energy on the screen, in life he was a quiet, introspective, and deeply private man, a poet, painter, and environmentalist, whose marriage to his early vaudeville partner was famously loyal and happy. His story is one of the few Hollywood biographies that reflect a fulfilled life as well as a spectacular career. deIf you're looking for an impersonal, gossipy, take-no-prisoners account of James Cagney's life, this is not the book for you. Author John McCabe is in love with his subject. After ghost-writing Cagney's autobiography in the 1970s, the two remained close until Cagney's death in 1986. But his bias toward the actor, whom McCabe describes as "a great artist and an even greater man," has opened many doors. In particular, it has allowed McCabe to collect an immense repository of quotations and testimonials from Cagney's friends and from the actor himself. Dipping frequently into his archive, McCabe has fashioned a book that makes for a thrilling, revelatory read. Many readers find the section devoted to the actor's impoverished childhood the most riveting, but I was just as captivated by the account of his professional career. McCabe recounts Cagney's many successes at Warner Brothers studios, his Oscar for Yankee Doodle Dandy in 1943, his tussle with the beloved S.Z. "Cuddles" Sakall during the shooting of that film, his command of the Yiddish language (picked up on the streets of New York and a great help to him when negotiating with Jack Warner), his escape (just barely) from the seductions of gorgeous actress Merle Oberon, his decision to retire while still at the peak of his power, and many other wonderful stories and anecdotes. I love the section, late in the book, where the author and Cagney meet, and biography suddenly becomes autobiography. --Raphael Shargel Kurzbeschreibung John McCabe's participation in the writing of James Cagney's autobiography, the many years of friendship that followed, and an intense period of interview and discussion in preparation for a musical comedy based on Cagney's life--a show that never saw the light of day--make him Cagney's ideal biographer. And, indeed, he has written a searching chronicle of this major actor's life and career, packed with history and anecdote, and profusely illustrated. Cagney came from a poor Irish-American New York family but once he found his mtier as an actor, it was not long before he was recognized as a brilliantly energetic and powerful phenomenon. After the tremendous impact of Public Enemy--in which he notoriously pushed half a grapefruit into Mae Clarke's face--he was typecast as a gangster because of the terrifying violence that seemed to be pent up within him. Years of pitched battle with Warner Brothers finally liberated him from those roles, and he went on to star in such triumphs as the musicals Yankee Doodle Dandy (winning the 1942 Oscar for best actor) and Love Me or Leave Me. Even so, one of his greatest later roles involved a return to crime--as the psychopathic killer in the terrifying White Heat. He retired from films in 1961 after making Billy Wilder's One, Two, Three, only to return twenty years later for Ragtime. But however much Cagney personified violence and explosive energy on the screen, in life he was a quiet, introspective, and deeply private man, a poet, painter, and environmentalist, whose marriage to his early vaudeville partner was famously loyal and happy. His story

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