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Mr. Strangelove: A Biography of Peter Sellers (English Edition)

Von Ed Sikov

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Von Ed Sikov : Mr. Strangelove: A Biography of Peter Sellers (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mr. Strangelove: A Biography of Peter Sellers (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. life is a state of mind...Von bottle07Ed Sikov's Biographie ist wunderbar zu lesen, manchmal lustig, andernmal todtraurig, jedesmal hochinteressant und spannend zugleich.Das Buch ist als Einstieg in Leben und Werk des ebenso genialen,

wie komplizierten Komikers zu empfehlen. Sikov geht dabei auf so gut wie jeden Film des groen Schauspielers ein, mit Entstehungsgeschichte, Inhalt, Zitaten und Kritik. Auch das turbulente Privatleben lsst er natrlich nicht aus, verzichtet aber glcklicherweise auf hochgetochene psychologische Analysen. Bei all der Tragik bewahrt Sikov aber seinen (dem Thema entsprechend passenden) Humor, so dass der Leser ihm auch durch die dstersten Passagen folgen kann, ohne sich aus dem Fenster zu strzen. Sellers wird dabei weder verherrlicht, noch zum Monster verklrt, vielmehr wird ein Ansatz sowohl zum Verstdnis seines Charakters (die Eltern, sein Verhltnis zur Religion, seine von der Auenseiterrolle geprgte Schulzeit, der Einfluss durch die Vorkriegskultur; um nur einige Anhaltspunkte zu nennen), als auch seiner Kunst (der Arbeit beim Radio, Fernsehen und natrlich beim Film und der damit verbundenen Wahl der Stoffe) geliefert. Jeder, der nur ansatzweise die Magie seiner Szenen in "Lolita" gesprrt hat, der bei "Dr. Strangelove" auch nach dem 10. Mal noch etwas neues zum Lachen entdeckt oder nach "Being There" Tom Hanks' Darstellung des Forrest Gump fr amateurhaft hlt, der sollte "Mr. Strangelove" lesen. Und natrlich alle anderen auch. Es ist das spannende Bild eines Schauspielers, ber den ein Freund einmal sagte: "He is the most succesful actor since Olivier and Guinness. He enjoys a riotous acclaim clear across the world.[...] Yet Peter Sellers is one of the saddest, most self-tortured men I have ever known.[...] There is certainly no more complex personality in the whole spectrum of British show business."

Kurzbeschreibung Peter Sellers's explosive talent made him a beloved figure in world cinema and continues to attract new audiences. With his darkly comic performances in Dr. Strangelove and Lolita and his outrageously funny appearances as Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther films, he became one of the most popular movie stars of his time. Sellers himself identified most personally with the character he played in Being There--an utterly empty man on whom others projected what they wanted, or needed, to see. In this lively and exhaustively researched biography, Ed Sikov offers unique insight into Sellers's comedy style. Beginning with Sellers' lonely childhood with a mother who wouldn't let go of him, through his service in the Royal Air Force and his success on BBC Radio's The Goon Show, Sikov goes on to detail his relationships with co-stars such as Alec Guinness, Sophia Loren, and Shirley MacLaine; his work with such directors as Stanley Kubrick, Billy Wilder, and Blake Edwards; his four failed marriages; his ridiculously short engagement to Liza Minnelli; and all the other peculiarities of this eccentric man's unpredictable life. The most insightful biography ever written of this endlessly fascinating star, Mr. Strangelove is as comic and tragic as Peter Sellers was himself. deHow do you write the biography of a cipher? That's the daunting challenge veteran Hollywood biographer Ed Sikov tackles in exploring the life of one of the 20th century's most acclaimed comic actors. Peter Sellers' uncanny talents as a mimic would inform everything from English radio's Goon Show and the highly profitable--if increasingly broad--cycle of Inspector Clouseau Pink Panther films to his brilliant turn as Chauncey Gardiner in Being There, a role that had all too many discomfoting parallels to Sellers' own cryptic personality. Sikov reveals that the man long hailed as comedy's greatest chameleon was in fact a tragic, troubled personal vacuum, the only child of a literal stage mother who indulged his every whim, yet left him a distinct void for a soul. Sikov interviews many of the relatives, intimates, and survivors of Sellers that filled his alternately strange and spectacular life, while thoroughly chronicling every professional triumph and more than a few missteps. Sikov's straightforward reporting, seasoned by his own dry wit, details the parts that made up the man, but the sum remains an ever compelling enigma. As Lolita and Dr. Strangelove director Stanley Kubrick, no slouch in the personal riddle sweepstakes himself, once said of Sellers: "There is no such person." --Jerry McCulley.com How do you write the biography of a cipher? That's the daunting challenge veteran Hollywood biographer Ed Sikov tackles in exploring the life of one of the 20th century's most acclaimed comic actors. Peter Sellers' uncanny talents as a mimic would inform everything from English radio's Goon Show and the highly profitable--if increasingly broad--cycle of Inspector Clouseau Pink Panther films to his brilliant turn as Chauncey Gardiner in Being There, a role that had all too many discomfoting parallels to Sellers' own cryptic personality. Sikov reveals that the man long hailed as comedy's greatest chameleon was in fact a tragic, troubled personal vacuum, the only child of a literal stage mother who indulged his every whim, yet left him a distinct void for a soul. Sikov interviews many of the relatives, intimates, and survivors of Sellers that filled his alternately strange and spectacular life, while thoroughly chronicling every professional triumph and more than a few missteps. Sikov's straightforward reporting, seasoned by his own dry wit, details the parts that made up the man, but the sum remains an ever compelling enigma. As Lolita and Dr. Strangelove director Stanley Kubrick, no slouch in the personal riddle sweepstakes himself, once said of Sellers: "There is no such person." --Jerry McCulley