



# The Great Ziegfeld

**Cynthia Brideson, Sara Brideson**



## **The Great Ziegfeld:**

**American Film Musical Themes and Forms** Michael Dunne, 2014-12-24 The musical has been called the most popular form of entertainment in the world This work examines the subjects themes and contemporary relevance of Hollywood musicals through their long popularity placing each show in historical and political context and analyzing it in detail A chapter is devoted to how Goldiggers of 1933 1933 and Stand Up and Cheer 1934 deal with the economic crises of the Depressions Another addresses race issues by examining the prevalence of blackface minstrelsy in the 1930s and 1940s looking at productions like Swing Time 1936 and Dixie 1943 Rock and roll culture which started in the 1950s and threatened America with teenage sex and rebellion is addressed through such hits as Girl Crazy 1943 Bye Bye Birdie 1963 and Grease 1978 The work also explores dance as a signifier of character the geography of musicals such as New York or the South fantasy settings Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly and the musical biopic mentioning biographies of such figures as Ziegfeld Cohan Rogers and Hart Cole Porter and Jerome Kern A later chapter discusses intertextuality in such shows as Singin in the Rain 1952 which refers to many earlier musicals Kiss Me Kate 1953 which refers to Taming of the Shrew and All That Jazz 1970 which refers to the life and work of Bob Fosse The work concludes with an examination of the continuing popularity of the musical with such hits as Moulin Rouge 2001 and Chicago 2002

Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here

*The Great Ziegfeld*, 2004 Winner of three Academy Awards including Best Picture The Great Ziegfeld stars William Powell in a biopic suggested by romances and incidents in the life of America s greatest showman Florenz Ziegfeld Jr With admirable accuracy the film follows Ziegfeld s career from small time sideshow barker to creator of the famous Ziegfeld Follies the collection of singing dancing and comedy vaudeville acts that launched the careers of such luminaries as Fanny Brice Ray Bolger and Harriet Hctor all of whom play themselves in the film In the title role Powell offers a believable combination of ambition and hucksterism and his Thin Man costar Myrna Loy makes a late appearance as his second wife but it s large eyed Luise Rainer who has the showier role and won an Oscar as Ziegfeld s first big star and first wife The musical numbers however don t hold up quite as well as the plot and the film is overlong at 185 minutes It s fascinating though to see the vintage stars performing and the eight minute spectacle A Pretty Girl Is Like a Melody is an eye popper with an elaborate revolving set supporting a large cast singing and dancing to the Irving Berlin tune while throwing in some Puccini Strauss Leoncavallo and Gershwin for good measure

**The Oxford Companion to the American Musical** Thomas S. Hischak, 2008 A dictionary of short entries on American musicals and their practitioners including performers composers lyricists producers and choreographers

**Epics, Spectacles, and Blockbusters** Sheldon Hall, Stephen Neale, 2010 The pantheon of big budget commercially successful films encompasses a range of genres including biblical films war films romances comic book adaptations animated features and historical epics It discuss the characteristics history and modes of distribution and exhibition that unite big budget pictures from their beginnings in the late nineteenth

century to the present Moving chronologically it examines the roots of today's blockbuster in the feature special superspecial roadshow epic and spectacle of earlier eras with special attention to the characteristics of each type of picture Editor

*Heritage Galleries and Auctioneers Vintage Movie Poster Auction #607* Ivy Press, 2004-10 **Ziegfeld and His Follies** Cynthia Brideson, Sara Brideson, 2015-06-23 In this definitive biography Cynthia Brideson and Sara Brideson offer a comprehensive look at both the life and legacy of Florenz Ziegfeld Jr Drawing on a wide range of sources they provide a lively and well rounded account of Ziegfeld as a father a husband a son a friend a lover and an alternately ruthless and benevolent employer Lavishly illustrated this is an intimate and in depth portrait of a figure who profoundly changed American entertainment *William Powell* Roger Bryant, 2014-12-09 Actor William Powell is perhaps best known for his roles as charming Nick in The Thin Man films and blustery Clarence Day in Life with Father As diverse as those characters are they don't begin to reveal the full scope of talent demonstrated by one of Hollywood's most intelligent leading men Elegant witty and dignified Powell created accessible and human characters in a great variety of roles His talent was such that Powell has a large and growing fan base 50 years after his last film was released evidenced by the popularity of DVD rereleases and the frequent appearance of his films on cable television The focus of this book is Powell's work in more than 90 films from the silent era to the age of CinemaScope woven into the dramatic and touching story of the actor's life It begins by leaping into how Powell and actress Myrna Loy were launched to stardom as husband and wife Nick and Nora Charles in The Thin Man The next chapter sets the stage for the baby Powell's entry into the world in 1892 and details his childhood and upbringing Following chapters trace Powell's journey into the film industry his early career as a popular villain and his transition to talkies in the late 1920s aided by his stage training The book details his work at Warner Bros which turned him into a leading man and his years of stardom at MGM The book describes turning points in Powell's life the death of lover Jean Harlow a 21 month hiatus from films while the actor battled cancer and a new leap to the top in Life with Father Concluding chapters detail another flurry of films and the actor's retirement A filmography lists Powell's films from 1922 to 1955 including those believed to be lost **The Adaptation of History** Laurence Raw, Defne Ersin Tutan, 2012-11-14 This collection of essays asks the question What is history and considers how history is shaped in different socioeconomic contexts The writers take a transdisciplinary approach in the belief that everyone who deals with history including professional historians novelists and poets constructs narratives of the past to make sense of the present as well as to determine their future courses of action With contributions from a variety of specialists in media studies literature history and anthropology this book breaks new ground in adaptation studies **Hollywood Musicals Nominated for Best Picture** Frederick G. Vogel, 2015-09-02 Only one year after the presentation of the first Academy Awards on May 16 1929 two musicals joined the select group of five films nominated for Best Picture One The Broadway Melody won the award and since then 37 additional musicals have received Best Picture nominations Of those nine have won the award This book covers all 39 Hollywood musicals nominated

for Best Picture It explains why each film was nominated and why the winners won points out the influences that guided the productions and discusses these films influences on succeeding films Plot descriptions are provided along with facts about the acting direction choreography and orchestration complete cast and production credits and comments from critics

**Best Picture** Laurence E. MacDonald, 2024-02-19 About the Book This book is a fascinating look at the history of the Oscars that dates back to 1927 Every Best Picture winner is profiled in the book Although there have been many books listing the Oscar winners there has never been one like this that looks in depth at every film that has been awarded the Oscar for Best Picture The author evaluates each film and then presents at the end of each article his personal choice for the year s best film In about two third of the films he selects a Best Picture that is different from the Academy Award winner He also includes sections of Memorable Moments that make each film special The book will be of great value to movie fans but it will also be enjoyable to anyone who has ever wondered what the fuss is about when a film is awarded Best Picture About the Author Laurence E MacDonald is a Professor Emeritus from Mott Community College in Flint Michigan where he taught music history literature appreciation film music and private piano study He is also a former church choir director and author of several books including The Invisible Art of Film Music and 100 Greatest Film Scores MacDonald is a performing member and newsletter editor of the St Cecilia Society of Flint He is also former music critic of the Flint Journal and film reviewer of Michael Moore s newspaper the Flint Voice For over twenty years he hosted Music from Movies which ran weekly on Flint s public radio station WFBE MacDonald has six children three of whom are Catholic priests and avid movie fans He has been married to Carolyn McDonough since 2013 Together they have worked to update an old colonial home in Flint s East Village neighborhood and have recently adopted a fun loving beagle named Emmy who also likes old movies

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