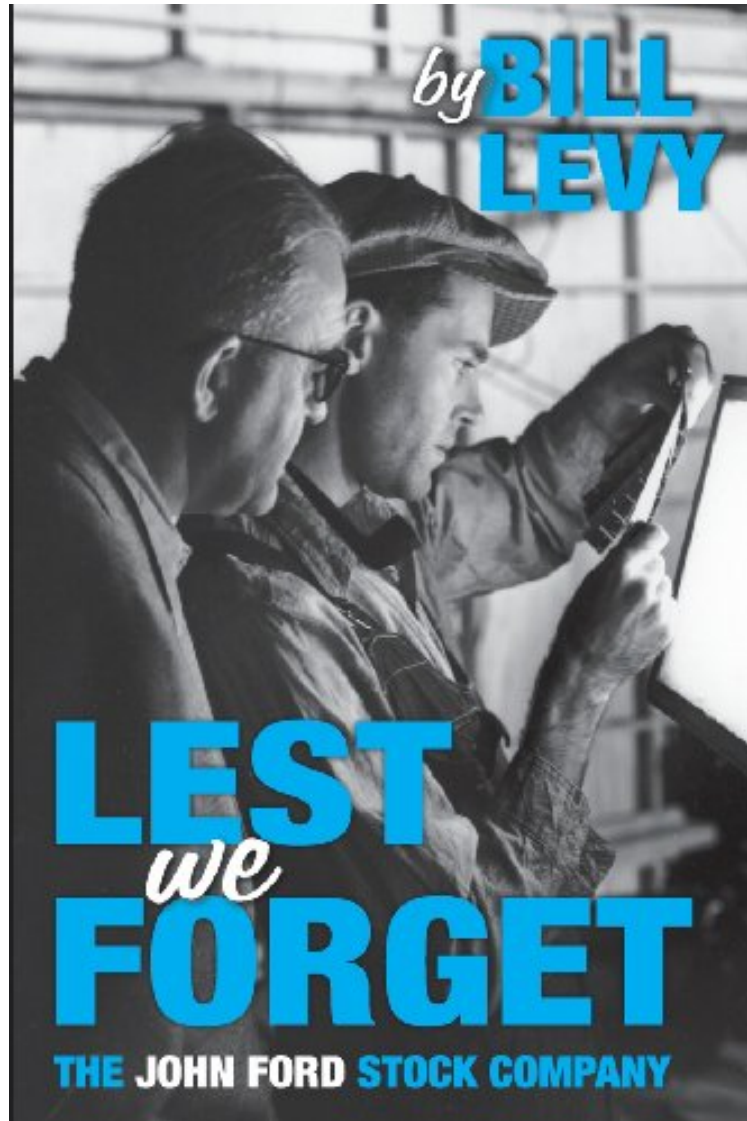


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Lest We Forget: The John Ford Stock Company

Bill Levy

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Bill Levy : Lest We Forget: The John Ford Stock Company before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lest We Forget: The John Ford Stock Company:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A good read, that leaves you wanting more.By Movie MikeIt's always good to find something new to read concerning John Ford, and in this case it is about the background of members of his stock company. People I recall mentioned in passing in other books about John Ford that I have read over the years are given some life, here in this volume. I rated this at four stars but I wish there were more flesh to this bone. Most of these folks are long dead so there is little chance of getting much more of "I knew them when" types of

commentary and I am sure it was not an easy task gathering as much information as the author did. Maybe someday we can get a book with a more in-depth biography of the Ford brothers as well as larger than life lead players such as Victor McLaglen and Ward Bond. This book was a welcome find and a good value. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Okay start but more information needed By CJSThe book was a good premise - provide information on members of the John Ford stock company - specifically those who worked with Ford four or more times. The information provided was good, and each actor had an accompanying photo so you could place them, but there just wasn't enough information provided for each actor. I think we should have also learned if they were married and had any children living today. Additionally, for so many actors, the author provided a total of all films and t.v. work they had done - except for the one I was most curious about - John Qualen - who seemed to be in everything. I would have loved a total on him. Within the text, when the Ford work was listed, it was all clumped together in a paragraph making it difficult to read. It was much more accessible in the appendix where it actually was listed out by actor. There were a few errors - the author perpetuated the story that Donald Crisp was born in Scotland where more recent research (and census records) indicate London. The author also misspelled Vivien Leigh's name on page 110. The book did provide previously unknown (to me) information on some of my favorite character actors - I just wish it had been more complete with each individual. The appendices are very helpful.. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fan of the Ford Stock Company By kikeo58John Ford was a great director (and tyrant so I have been told.) Still I love his movies. The group of actors who followed Ford from movie to movie made the experience wonderful for us. From the wonderful, but memorable, supporting actors to the boo hiss villains, this book lists a lot of them. It does not have much to say about any one actor since there were so many of them. But it would take a library to tell you more. I loved vicariously meeting them all. And yes I felt sorry they had to put up with John Ford. I also felt they got a lot out of working for him. Even the one who urinated on Ford's desk. You will have to read the book to find out who that was.

John Ford (1894-1973) directed scores of memorable movies that feature countless scenes that linger in one's memory. He is the only director to have won four Best Director Academy Awards, for *The Informer* (1935), *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940), *How Green Was My Valley* (1941), and *The Quiet Man* (1952). There have been many biographies and film studies of John Ford and his motion pictures. There has never been a single volume devoted to the stock company of actors and actresses who worked for him, some continually, many intermittently, from his silent westerns of the 'teens to his final films of the 1960s. This book spotlights 112 members of Ford's fluid repertory company and includes a mini-chapter on each member of the troupe. And it was a diverse group. One wrote three books on the Baha'i Faith religion; another boxed the heavyweight champion of the world to a draw; one eloped with Loretta Young when she was seventeen; one participated in the Yukon gold rush; a photograph of one player's ear is the club logo for a professional wrestling association; another taught Lucy how to jitterbug; one was a legendary undercover agent for the OSS in France during World War II; another was a member of the advisory board to the Bank of America concerning loans to the studios; two were rodeo world champions. All of them, from obscure bit players to barely-remembered character actors to legendary film stars, made substantial contributions to Ford's movie legacy. Bill Levy is the author of *John Ford: A Bio-Bibliography* and *Beyond the Beach: The Wit and Wisdom of Nevil Shute*. He has been writing his "Forgotten Gems" column on films of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s for New Jersey's monthly senior publication, *Fifty Plus*, since 2001. He lives in Mendham, New Jersey. For further information, see his website: www.BillLevyShares.com.