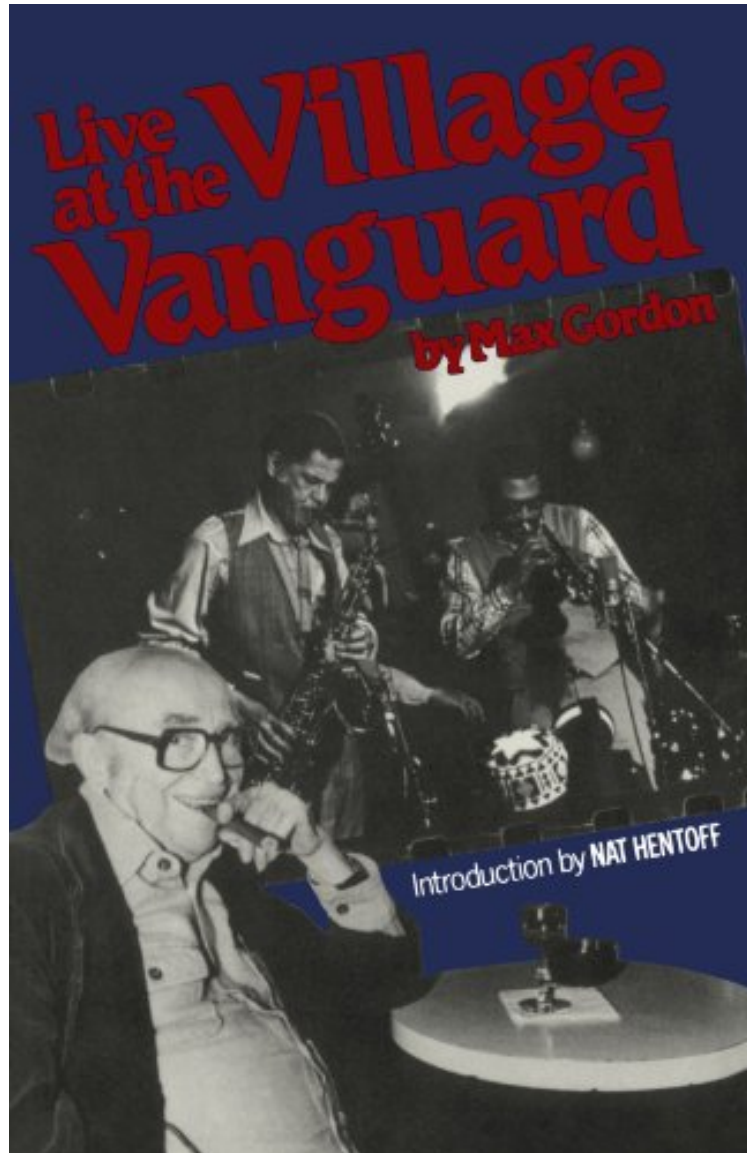


(Free pdf) Live At The Village Vanguard (Da Capo Paperback)

Live At The Village Vanguard (Da Capo Paperback)

Max Gordon

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Max Gordon : Live At The Village Vanguard (Da Capo Paperback) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Live At The Village Vanguard (Da Capo Paperback):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating narrative by the founder and proprietor of the Blue

Angel and Village Vanguard nightclubs
By Scott Albin
Those who have enjoyed the many jazz albums recorded "Live at the Village Vanguard," or better yet have actually descended the steep staircase into the "joint" itself for a set or two of great jazz, owe it to themselves to read this autobiographical account by Max Gordon first published in 1980. Some may be surprised by how perceptive and polished the writing is, but Gordon's first jobs after arriving in New York from his hometown of Portland, OR, in the '20's were as a writer and copywriter. Gordon chronicles his hits and misses in New York's nightclub business, the former being The Blue Angel, which lasted for 20 years, and the still-going-strong Village Vanguard. There are insightful chapters devoted to Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Sonny Rollins, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, and Nica the "Jazz Baroness," as well as provocative observations concerning non-jazz performers that Gordon booked such as Woody Allen, Lenny Bruce, Harry Belafonte, and Leadbelly. A lot is packed into the book's 145 concise pages, but next to nothing about his wife Lorraine and his children, who are at least represented in the photo section. Since Gordon spent most of his waking hours at his "joints," or unwinding at after-hours watering holes, delis, or diners, I guess that omission is understandable. By the way, in March of 2015 the Vanguard celebrated its 80th birthday, and is still run by Max's widow Lorraine (now 92!), who took the helm upon Max's death in 1989.⁷ of 7 people found the following review helpful. Hot, Smoky Jazz in a Basement
By George Schaefer
Max Gordon is a name that will be familiar to lovers of jazz. Anyone who goes to New York City and loves jazz will almost inevitably wind up seeing someone perform live at the Village Vanguard. Many great artists like John Coltrane have recorded live performances there. Gordon was the founder of this legendary club. He found a little basement in Greenwich Village and then proceeded to make jazz history. All the greats like Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker et al played there at one time or another. Lenny Bruce and Woody Allen also performed comedy at the Vanguard. Max Gordon proves to be a very competent author in this book that recounts the history of the club. Gordon discusses the early struggles with getting liquor licenses or dealing with racial segregation. He includes a lot of great anecdotes of his meetings with many of these legends. This book is surprisingly well written and entertaining. This chronicle of his life will be inspiring and educational. Max Gordon has an important story to tell. Jazz is one of America's greatest exports. Max Gordon played a major role in its development. I strongly recommend this book for any fan of jazz. (It is out of print but there are a few copies still being sold at the club itself. If you live in or close to New York City, it would be worth the effort.)

Since 1934, the Village Vanguard in New York's Greenwich Village has hosted the foremost in live jazz, folk music, and comedy. Its owner, Max Gordon, has now written a personal history of his club and the hundreds of entertainment legends who have played there. Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Lenny Bruce, Woody Allen, Woodie Guthrie, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Josh White, Pete Seeger
Max has stories about all of them. And what stories! As Nat Hentoff says in his introduction, "A good many so-called professional writers have not done nearly so well."