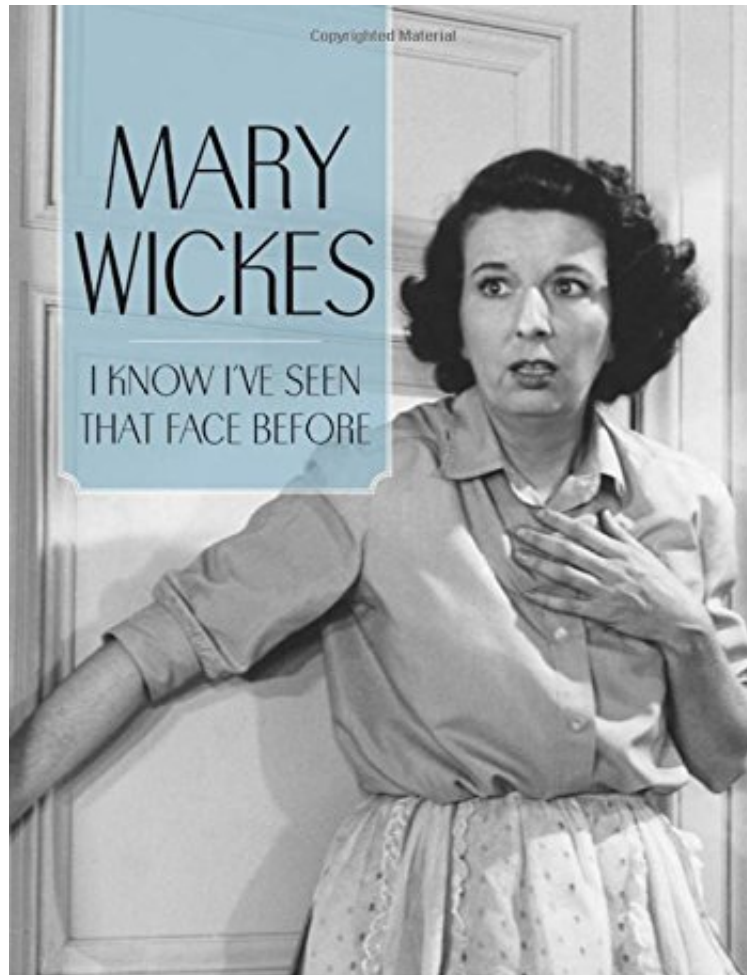


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## Mary Wickes: I Know I've Seen That Face Before (Hollywood Legends Series)

Steve Taravella

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**Steve Taravella : Mary Wickes: I Know I've Seen That Face Before (Hollywood Legends Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mary Wickes: I Know I've Seen That Face Before (Hollywood Legends Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mary Wickes Bio Should Not Be MissedBy John B. Nicholson, IIIFor readers who are attracted to Hollywood's role in the production of movies and the quick development of television from its earliest days, this biography is an entertaining and educational tome. Mary Wickes played hundreds of roles on which only she could place her unparalleled and impossible-to-imidate style. This look into her private life

should not be missed. If you liked Miss Wickes' performances before, you'll love her once you have read her biography. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. MARY WICKES By Deborah Hoertel Masgrau Interesting read with lots of detail. Gave a lot of insight on this amazing character actress which was so loved by many. 27 of 30 people found the following review helpful. The Great Mary Wickes By James Stettler Mary Wickes and I were attending the same play back in the decade of the 1970s. She rushed up at the last moment and I was surprised at how attractive she looked in person. I also saw her perform in WONDERFUL TOWN and OKLAHOMA on stage. Everything she did was always great and she was a star character actress with many, many fans. This book is so beautifully done and was a real page turner. As much as I knew about Mary Wickes, the author comes up with much career information and personal stories about this irreplaceable actress. There are stories about Mary and Lucille Ball, Bette Davis, and others too numerous to mention that you will not find elsewhere. The notes at the end of the book also contain a lot of fascinating information. I would urge all Mary Wickes fans and students of the golden era of show business to buy this book. It is a great addition to my library as it will be to anyone's collection. It is impossible to praise this book and the author too highly!

Moviegoers know her as the housekeeper in *White Christmas*, the nurse in *Now, Voyager*, and the crotchety choir director in *Sister Act*. This book, filled with never-published behind-the-scenes stories from Broadway and Hollywood, chronicles the life of a complicated woman who brought an assortment of unforgettable nurses, nuns, and housekeepers to life on screen and stage. Wickes (1910-1995) was part of some of the most significant moments in film, television, theatre, and radio history. On that frightening night in 1938 when Orson Welles recorded his earth-shattering *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast, Wickes was waiting on another soundstage for him for a rehearsal of *Danton's Death*, oblivious to the havoc taking place outside. When silent film star Gloria Swanson decided to host a live talk show on this new thing called television, Wickes was one of her first guests. When Lucille Ball made one of her first TV appearances, Wickes appeared with her and became Lucy's closest friend for more than thirty years. Wickes was the original Mary Poppins, long before an umbrella carried Julie Andrews across the rooftops of London. And when Disney began creating *101 Dalmatians*, Wickes was asked to pose for animators trying to capture the evil of Cruella De Vil. The pinched-face actress who cracked wise by day became a confidante to some of the day's biggest stars by night, including Bette Davis and Doris Day. Bolstered by interviews with almost three hundred people, and by private correspondence from Ball, Davis, Day, and others, *Mary Wickes: I Know I've Seen That Face Before* includes scores of never-before-shared anecdotes about Hollywood and Broadway. In the process, it introduces readers to a complex woman who sustained a remarkable career for sixty years.

From Booklist Whether donning a nuns habit opposite Whoopi Goldberg in *Sister Act* or a nurses uniform in *Now, Voyager* with Bette Davis, Wickes' appearances in dozens of the most beloved plays, films, and television shows of the twentieth century ensured that she would be forever recognizable, if not identifiable, to even the most casual cineast. Noticeably tall and blessed, or cursed, with a prominent nose and recessive chin, Wickes would not be any casting director's first call for a romantic lead. But her quick wit, abundant charm, and professional dedication made her their dream choice for many iconic supporting roles. Though she became typecast portraying nuns, nurses, and maids, Wickes brought a queenly demeanor and quirky humor to even the most quotidian characters, an ethic that won her the respect and friendship of many Broadway and Hollywood celebrities, most notably Lucille Ball, who considered Wickes her dearest friend. Divulging the kind of insider details that entertainment buffs adore, Taravella also delivers a scholarly, affectionate, and vivid biography of a legendary actress. --Carol Haggas Divulging the kind of insider details that entertainment buffs adore, Taravella delivers a scholarly, affectionate, and vivid biography of a legendary actress. Carol Haggas, Booklist This is a straightforward biography that celebrates and shines a light on a woman who Hollywood never took seriously. Her friendships with various Hollywood hoi polloi, including a long-standing friendship with Lucille Ball, are a tender chapter in the book, and Ball's daughter Lucie Arnaz's recollections will cause tears to well up. Biographies about lesser-known actors are always fascinating because you never know what to expect. Taravella doesn't stoop to naming names or providing salacious gossip. He wants to give you insight on a woman who made people laugh but who never got her due. Kristen Lopez, *Journeys in Classic Film* blog Highly recommended. The biography is incredibly well-researched, and it is obvious that Taravella put an immense amount of work into providing readers as thorough an understanding of Mary Wickes as possible. *Mary Wickes: I Know I've Seen That Face Before* is filled with interesting anecdotes about Wickes' career that may be wholly unfamiliar to her many fans. Brandie Ashe, *True Classics cinema blog* From the *Inside Flap* The full story of one of Hollywood's most accomplished character actresses