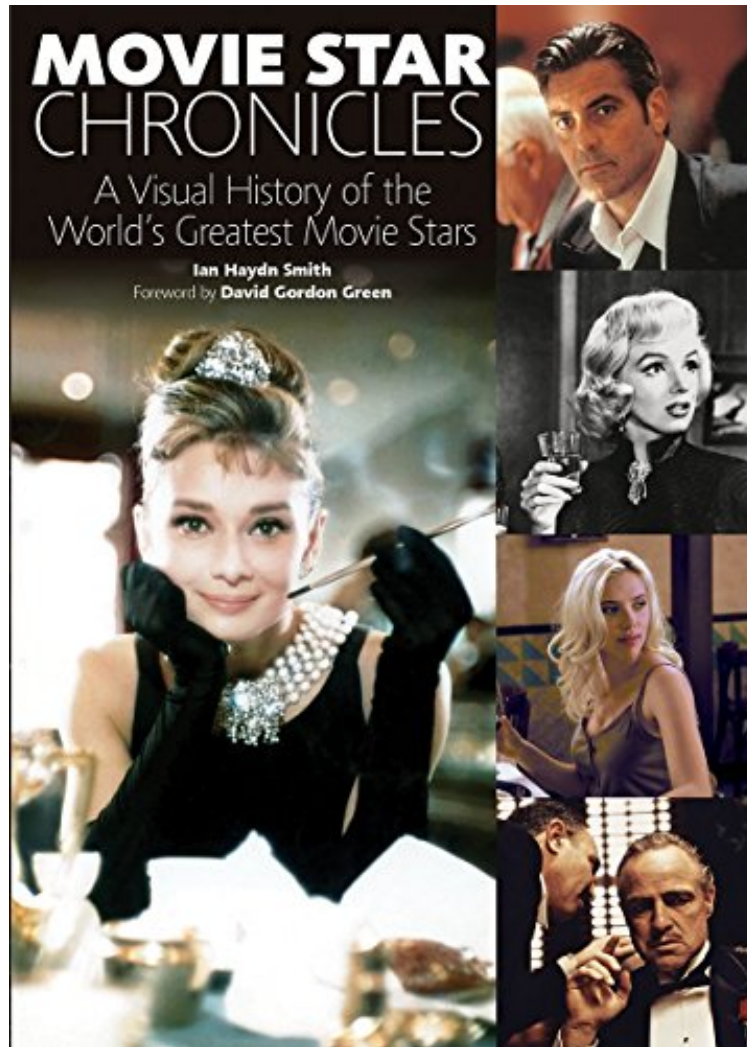


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# Movie Star Chronicles: A Visual History of the World's Greatest Movie Stars

*Ian Smith*

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#676357 in Books 2015-09-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.75 x 1.63 x 6.75l, .0 #File Name: 1770855300576 pages | File size: 55.Mb

**Ian Smith : Movie Star Chronicles: A Visual History of the World's Greatest Movie Stars** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Movie Star Chronicles: A Visual History of the World's Greatest Movie Stars:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's not what's in, that is really out !By Gary Leason The ultimate coffee table book for those who love film! It is never what is in the work that displeases, only what was omitted. Not to include two time Academy Award winner Anthony Quinn, in favor of Divine is a true injustice. This format, broken down by eras, would be even better. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A great book... with notable

exclusions  
By Jeff Wendy S  
This is an incredible, hernia-inducing book (do they make soft-covers any heavier?) Well over 500 pages crammed with information about your favorite stars, including thumbnail pictures from their highlight roles, a timeline of their key films (and their directors and box office takes), and 1 to 2 page biographies. Every page is in color and filled with small photos, with the occasional 2-page spread of full color photos for the author's favorites. The appendix contains an exhaustive listing of all major award recipients for every year. This is a quality book with an amazing amount of information. I can't believe how much time must of gone into compiling this... however I do have a few small complaints, none of which should sway you from buying the book, but you should be aware of them: 1) How in the world did they decide who to include/exclude? For such an "exhaustive" work, it's missing some pretty obvious people... mostly among the actresses. For example, it has nothing for Gwyneth Paltrow, Charlize Theron, Hilary Swank, Reese Witherspoon, Holly Hunter, Jessica Lange, or even Elizabeth Taylor, yet it includes fairly minor players as Jean Seberg, Kristin Scott Thomas, Divine, and Julie Delpy. It also classifies Anne Hathaway as a femme fatales which seemed kind of odd. 2) Related to #1 - the book includes scores of foreign film stars who, if you're not a foreign film aficionado, you probably have never heard of. I'm not trying to be a "domestic snob", and the book \*is\* supposed to be the "world's" greatest movie stars, but I would not have axed some major domestic actors to make room for relative unknowns. Either the book should be even larger and more inclusive, or perhaps there should be two volumes. 3) and minor, but it might be important to you: the text is rather small, especially the photo captions which are minuscule (2 pt?). I have to read it in bright light or get my highest powered reading glasses! It's fairly up-to-date as of the time of this writing. Movies as recent as *Interstellar*, *Into the Woods*, and *Still Alice* are among the actors' filmographies. But despite it's limitations, (and the fact that you could find all this and more on IMDB), it is a fun, impressive book. If you like tangible reference books and love movies and stars, you will enjoy this one. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book for casual reference, with some omissions though  
By Customer  
This is a good book that chronicles most of the worlds greatest movie stars with fairly up to date information. This book is thick and heavy, about 7"x 10" in size with soft covers, not exactly the feel of a typical coffee table book that one would expect. That said, this is a book that should please any film aficionados. It manages to cram in lots of information about over 300 movie stars and award listings by year. Each star is individually covered across 1-2 pages, with a good length of biography, thumbnail pictures of their portrayed movie character and an illustrated timeline of their famous films and shows. There are also full-size photographs of some select stars (presumably the author's favorites). At the back of the book are listings of awards and recipients by year. A fairly well-done chronicle book of movie stars. That being said, there are some minor issues I have with this book: 1) The selection criteria for movie stars is a big puzzle to me. There are some big names that are missing in this book. Surprisingly, Elizabeth Taylor is absent from the book. The last time I checked, she was one of the most famous, greatest movie stars in the world. She is not in the book while some lesser known actors/actresses are. I'm bewildered. 2) The book is titled as a visual history. I was expecting lots of archive-worthy photographs and film shots. Instead, I was greeted with small thumbnails that I have to look at with a magnifying glass, and some illustrated timelines. Sure, there are larger photographs but they are few and far between. Furthermore, the printing is mostly done in small fonts and I have a hard time reading it without a pair of reading glasses. Overall, this a substantial book that chronicles many greatest movie stars in the world. If you're a film aficionado, you'll be pleased to have it in your library. For the casual fans, it is a good reference book and I like it. Although it is not really a coffee table book, I may just leave it there so that I can flip through it to see the work of some movie stars right after watching their films.

Movie Star Chronicles promises to satisfy the curiosity of moviegoers, cinephiles, and the Hollywood-hungry fans that fuel today's entertainment news industry. For film students, it is a practical reference to the most important actors in cinematic history. Entries illustrated with film and television stills and other archival material chart the careers of 330 actors from the era of silent film to today's blockbusters. Expert text gives an entertaining overview and color-coded timelines provide an at-a-glance guide to the actor's career, their roles, movie release dates, earnings and awards. With 576 pages and more than 2,500 illustrations for only \$29.95, *Movie Star Chronicles* is an outstanding value. It includes: A to Z coverage of 330 movie stars, with extended entries for 100 20 feature articles on popular movie trends, including vampires; western heroes; singers turned actors; femmes fatales; saints and sinners; acting dynasties; combat stars; cops and more 30 lavish double-page photo spreads showing cinema's most influential stars at work and how film has evolved from silent black- and-white to color 3-D 20 illustrated features on genres and trends, such as Superheroes, Acting Dynasties, Screen Sirens, and Movie Villains Color-coded timelines showing the arc of an actor's career, including release dates and types of features, such as Criminal, Romantic Drama, and Thriller Best Actor awards: Oscars, BAFTA, Cesar (France), Goya (Spain), David Di Donatello (Italy), Golden Horse (Asia), Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Sundance. Covering Hollywood, Bollywood and world cinema, *Movie Star Chronicles* is truly international and comprehensive. Sure to attract a wide readership, it is an essential purchase.

From Amy Adams to Zhang Ziyi, this is an encyclopedic love letter to cinema, describing 330 of the industry's most notable stars. Smith, a journalist who specializes in film, distinguishes between everyday actors and movie stars, who

deal with that distinction's many benefits and pitfalls. Each entry breaks down stars' work by date, genre, some box office numbers, and award wins and nominations, with occasional entries further punctuated by additional full-page photo spreads showcasing their more notable roles... This is a fantastic visual resource for any cinema lover. Its entries are playful, not dry, and contain enough detail to satisfy the trivia-obsessed without overwhelming the average reader. (Publisher's Weekly 2015-10-01)In the same fashion as the other Chronicles books, this volume showcases 330 notable movie stars. Arranged alphabetically by last name, the one- or two-page entries feature multiple head shots of each star. The narrative briefly discusses their background, famous roles, and interesting trivia. Color-coded references to the individual's main character types at the top add interest (Gene Kelly's are "Charmer," "Dancer," and "Musical Star," for example). There are 20 feature articles on popular movie trends, genres, and classic character types. Numerous cross-references abound, and an index lists all of the performers noted in the volume. This entertaining book is perfect for movie fans and would make an excellent addition to circulating collections. (Rebecca Vnuk Booklist 2016-01-01)The world's greatest movie stars are gathered in this detailed collection... Every star's top films are discussed and the impact on their career. A chronology of their work is featured at the bottom of each page as well as numerous colour photographs. Movie genres are colour coded and box office numbers are included where the information is available. Beneath each movie listed is the name of the film's director, as well the awards they received for those films are identified. Along with the individual profiles there are interesting groupings around different themes such as actors who transitioned from television to movies, or top actors from different categories like cops or singers. (Terry Peters North Shore News 2015-11-20)This guide includes 330 movie stars from the "pioneering performers of the silent era to the latest box office draws." You will learn about the featured actors and the significant roles as you peruse this guide that is full of photographs. There is also an informative "Awards Directory". Nice book for film enthusiasts and those interested in celebrities. (Glenn Perrett Simcoe.com 2015-12-04)The definitive reference guide to the movie stars of Hollywood, Bollywood and world cinema. This guide includes profiles on movie stars, directors and influential figures from the beginning of film in the 1900s through to today. The tome is the ultimate encyclopedia for film buffs and will satisfy the curiosity of moviegoers, cinephiles and the Hollywood-hungry fans that fuel today's entertainment news industry. For film students, this is a practical reference of the most important actors in cinematic history. We love the color-coded timelines showing the arc of an actor's career. Holiday Gift Guide 2015 selection. (Alan W. Petrucelli Examiner 2015-12-16)About the Author Ian Haydn Smith is a U.K.-based writer and editor. As a journalist, he has written on film and the arts for numerous media outlets. From 2007 to 2012, he was editor of International Film Guide, and since 2011, he has been editor of Curzon Magazine and series editor of 24 Frames. Recent publications include editing the updated edition of 1001 Movies to See Before You Die. David Gordon Green is the director of George Washington (2000), All the Real Girls (2003), Undertow (2004), Snow Angels (2007), Pineapple Express (2008), Your Highness (2011), The Sitter (2011) and Prince Avalanche (2013). He was a producer for Eastbound and Down (2009-12) and Good Vibes (2011). His most recent films as director are Joe (2013) with Nicolas Cage, Manglehorn (2014) with Al Pacino and the satire Our Brand Is in Crisis (2015), starring Sandra Bullock. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Introduction What makes a star? Reality TV has been grasping at this question for years, offering up shows whose aim is to seek out and develop a new pop culture icon before our very eyes. If the Got Talent franchise aimed at identifying individuals or groups with the raw material to be forged into something unique, The X Factor, by its very name, suggested that even with talent, there has to be an extra ingredient that makes someone stand out from the crowd. Most winners from these series eventually fade back into the anonymity of everyday life after basking in the glow of fame -- longer than Andy Warhol's 15 minutes, but hardly a career -- highlighting that stardom can be a fickle beast. To make a distinction, acting is a vocation, a career choice in which one's own life experiences, as well as empathy for the suffering, joy, pain, triumph and anguish of others, is brought to bear in the creation of a wholly -- or mostly -- fictitious being. Stardom is conferred on few, but not all, actors. And in its various forms, it is not always welcome. Stardom also stands in stark contrast to celebrity, which is a byproduct of fame, the bastion of the talentless or for some what remains when a star has waned. There is a quality to an actor that makes them a star -- an aura that surrounds them or something about their presence that makes it impossible for us to look away from them. (And not just on film. I was once in a second-hand bookshop on London's Charing Cross Road when Peter O'Toole walked in. Before seeing him, there was a sense that the atmosphere in the shop had changed. He wanted to know whether a copy of Loitering with Intent was in stock. The assistant, mystified as to why the actor was enquiring about the availability of the first volume of his own memoir, replied that there were no copies. O'Toole responded, with a wry smile, "Good. People should have to pay full price for it and not read someone else's bloody copy," and promptly walked out. The mood in the shop returned to one of subdued normality.) Stars have always dominated cinema, too often at the expense of the many creative roles in a vastly populated industry. In the years before sound, people might not have known who D.W. Griffith, Abel Gance, Victor Sjstrm, King Vidor or Giovanni Pastrone -- some of the greatest directors of their day -- were, but Charles Chaplin, Greta Garbo, Ruan Lingyu, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford and their peers were household names. Some change came with the rise of film criticism and the increased focus on the director as auteur. However, in the last 25 years, with agents increasing their power and the salary of the people they represent, the star once again burns brightly. And not just in

Hollywood. Bollywood in India and Nollywood in Nigeria, as well as other national cinemas around the world, are dominated by stars. They not only play a significant role in our enjoyment of and emotional engagement with a film, but are also a key presence in the marketing campaign, whether it's their face appearing on huge billboards or appearances on chat shows around the globe. They are surrounded by an army of employees, from press and marketing through to managers, assistants, lawyers and those responsible for making them look good. Audiences' appetite for stars, or what the image of the star represents -- from an idealized life through to the characters they play -- is as voracious as it ever was. Some stars bask in such fame. Tom Cruise has taken the responsibility of his stardom to an impressive professional level, always on hand at premieres to spend a few hours with the audiences who have queued up to see him. Others have a more truculent relationship with the fame that has accompanied their success as an actor. In Albert and David Maysles' 1966 documentary short *Meet Marlon Brando*, the star, who was meant to be promoting his new film *Morituri* (1965), eschews the conventions of the press junket, preferring instead to explore the nature of the unspoken agreement between studios and the media in promoting a film, as well as questioning his interviewers more than they are able to him. And yet, what shines through is the sheer magnetism of Brando -- that thing that makes him so compelling a presence on the screen. As David Gordon Green points out in his preface to this book, not all great actors possess this quality, and no doubt some bad actors do. But a great star, one whose best work outlasts their lifetime, both personally and on the screen, is the one who has achieved the perfect symbiosis of talent and charisma. *Movie Star Chronicles* is not an exhaustive encyclopedia of every star that has graced the screen. There have been too many to include in one volume. Instead, the book is a tapestry of stars past and present, whose profiles detail each actor's ascendancy, high points and career misfires, building into a wider portrait of those elements that help make a star. It highlights the vast spectrum of what constitutes a star, from the silent matinee idol to the turbulent youth, the charmer or femme fatale to the action hero or solitary outsider. And within these archetypes we see that extra element, unique to each individual but loved by their fans, that makes them so original -- a major presence on the screen. An icon. A star. Ian Haydn Smith