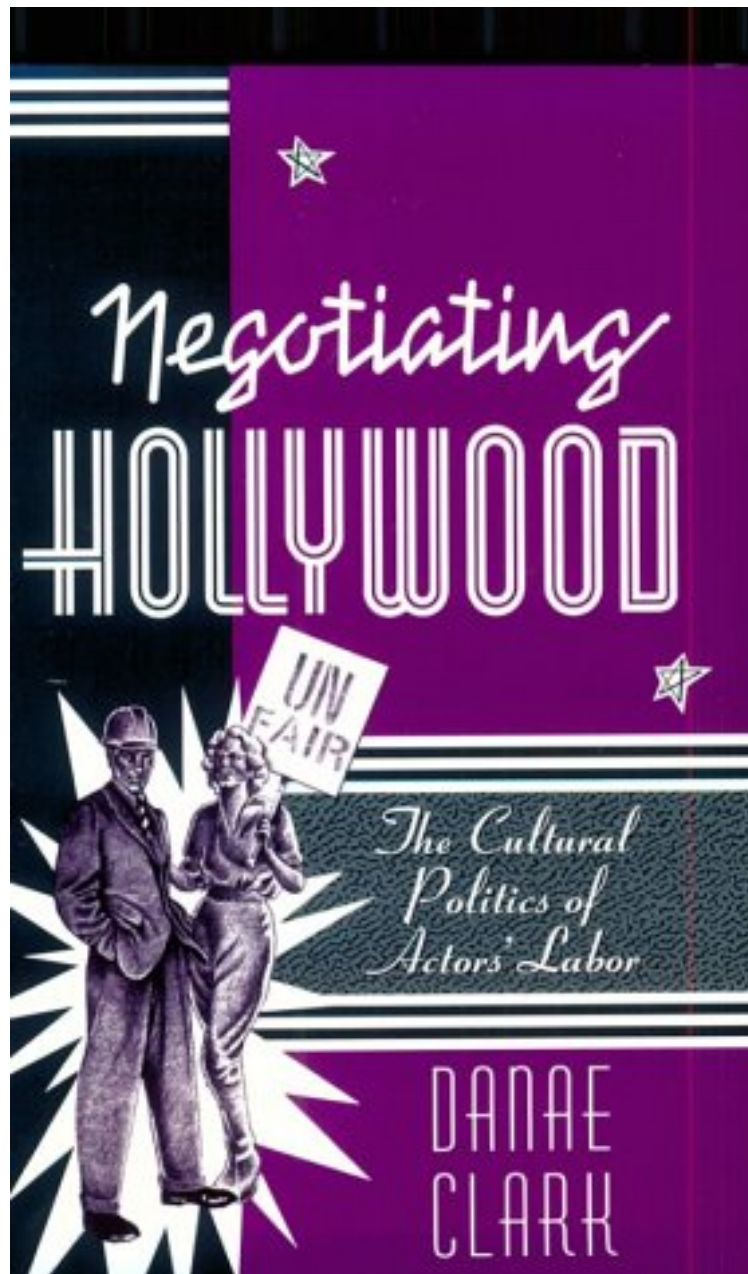


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## Negotiating Hollywood: The Cultural Politics of Actors Labor

*Danae Clark*

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**Danae Clark : Negotiating Hollywood: The Cultural Politics of Actors Labor** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Negotiating Hollywood: The Cultural Politics of Actors Labor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent primer on labor relations for actorsBy A. H.

WILLIAMSThis book is an excellent primer for understanding the unique working conditions of film actors. Clark effectively identifies the actor's true status as worker first, celebrity/artist, etc. second. The lessons from this book can be applied to organizing other types of contingent workers such as I.T. workers and construction workers. A definite read for labor students and organizers.

Actors' screen images have too often stolen the focus of attention from their behind-the-scenes working conditions. In "Negotiating Hollywood", Danae Clark begins to fill this gap in film history by providing a rich historical account of actors' labour struggles in 1930s Hollywood. For many years, one of the dominant approaches to film studies has been the "star studies" approach, like auteurism or biography wherein one actor or director becomes the object of study. Clark argues for a cultural studies approach, as she investigates both the individual and collective political conflicts that actors encountered within the Hollywood production system in the 1930s. She reveals the contradictory position of actors caught in the forces between production and consumption, representation and self-representation, their role as images and their occupation as labourers. Taking the formation of the Screen Actors Guild in 1933 as its investigative centrepiece, "Negotiating Hollywood" examines the ways in which actors' contracts, studio labour policies and public relations efforts, films, fan magazines, and other documents were all involved in actors' struggles to assert their labour power and define their own images. Clark supplies information not only on stars, but on screen extras, whose role in the Hollywood film industry has remained hitherto undocumented. "Negotiating Hollywood" should be of appeal to individuals interested in actor labour, film history and cultural studies.

From the Back CoverIn Negotiating Hollywood, Danae Clark provides a nuanced account of labor struggles in 1930s Hollywood, taking the formation in 1993 of the screen Actors Guide as her centerpiece.