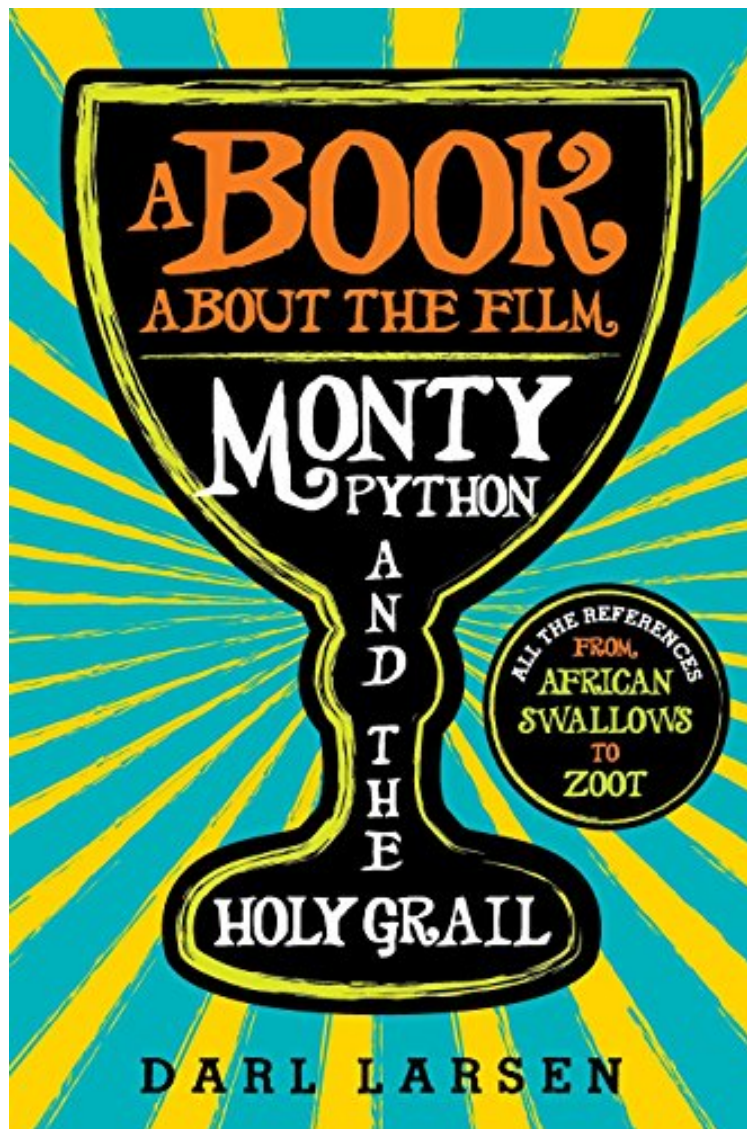


[Mobile book] A Book about the Film Monty Python and the Holy Grail: All the References from African Swallows to Zoot

A Book about the Film Monty Python and the Holy Grail: All the References from African Swallows to Zoot

Darl Larsen

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Darl Larsen : A Book about the Film Monty Python and the Holy Grail: All the References from African Swallows to Zoot before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Book about the Film Monty Python and the Holy Grail: All the References from African Swallows to Zoot:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant book for a brilliant movieBy ArtMuseLitI beg to differ

with Janet Perry's review. If all you want is a "fun time" from the film, don't buy the book. But if you're looking to uncover the rich allusions, surprising subtleties and intellectual treasures of the group's first film, there is no book like this one. Larsen is arguably the world's expert on Monty Python; his affection for the group and admiration of their work is clear throughout. This book's beyond exhaustive--it will make you look smarter at parties. Don't miss it. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. on beyond trivia

By David Bratman

There is a land somewhere on beyond trivia. No, further off ... No, further than that. There you will find this book. SIX HUNDRED large pages of small print, all about this one movie. Less focused on writing and production details, though there's plenty of that, than on historical sources and contemporary analogues. If this weren't my favorite movie in all the world, I wouldn't touch this book. As it is, I could hardly live without it. 2 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Run away! Run away!

By Janet Perry

There is a saying about comedy "If you have to explain a joke -- you don't get it." Maybe Larsen gets this classic comedy and maybe not, but you would never know it from this exhaustive and excruciating book. Weighing in at over 500 pages, this book should be better than it is. But Larsen can't ever overcome his need to tell you everything about each little thing in the movie and then some. Take his description and analysis of the armor when we first see King Arthur -- it's more than 10 pages long -- for armour! Or what about his many endnotes to each chapter. These are not merely citations, but additional information, given to us in tiny print. The credits, not even the movie, have nearly 100 notes! While I'm more than happy geekily to note every obscure reference, it bothers me that Larsen has taken such an overly detailed and overly academic approach. It shows that he doesn't understand art, artists, or the artistic process. Artists see things that are interesting and take note. At some time in the future, they might use it in some way in a later work. But this doesn't necessarily mean something deep, it might just be something cool, or appropriate. Monty Python fans (and I'm one) might be tempted to get this book. You might even think that it might serve as a useful reference book. It's not what you want "Run away! Run away!". Step away from this book and go watch the movie again and laugh. That's what's important.

Monty Python's Flying Circus aired from 1969 until 1974, but the conclusion of the series did not mark the end of the troupe's creative output. Even before the final original episodes were recorded and broadcast, the six members began work on their first feature-length enterprise of new material. Rather than string together a series of silly skits, they conceived a full-length story line with references to the real and imagined worlds of the mythical King Arthur, the lives of medieval peasants, and the gloomy climate of 1970s Britain. Released in 1975, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* was a modest success but has since been hailed as a modern classic.

In *A Book about the Film Monty Python and the Holy Grail: All the References from African Swallows to Zoot*, Darl Larsen identifies and examines the cultural, historical, and topical allusions in the movie. In this entertaining resource, virtually every reference that appears in a scene whether stated by a character, depicted in the mise-en-scene, or mentioned in the print companion is identified and explained. Beyond the Arthurian legend, entries cover literary metaphors, symbols, names, peoples, and places as well as the myriad social, cultural, and historical elements that populate the film. This book employs the film as a window to both reveal and examine Arthurian life and literature, the historical Middle Ages, and a Great Britain of labor unrest, power shortages, and the common man. Introducing the reader to dozens of medievalist histories and authors and connecting the film concretely to the modern British Empire, *A Book about the Film Monty Python and the Holy Grail* will appeal to fans of the troupe as well as medieval scholars and academics who can laugh at themselves and their work.

If you're a fan of the British comedy troupe Monty Python, and especially if you love their 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, then you absolutely must get your hands on *A Book about the Film Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, by Darl Larsen. 'Scholarly' is the best word to describe the book; it's a virtually line-by-line annotation of the film. . . . The book is both a glorious celebration of Python's best movie and a thoughtful, frequently surprising look at all its various connotations and inspirations. (The Chronicle Herald)

About the Author

Darl Larsen is professor in both the Media Arts department and the Center for Animation at Brigham Young University, where he teaches film, animation, screenwriting and popular culture studies. He is the author of *Monty Python, Shakespeare and English Renaissance Drama* (2003) and *Monty Python's Flying Circus: An Utterly Complete, Thoroughly Unillustrated, Absolutely Unauthorized Guide to Possibly All the References* (2013).