

A Pictorial History of Vaudeville

Bernard Sobel

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Bernard Sobel : A Pictorial History of Vaudeville before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Pictorial History of Vaudeville:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A pictorial view of a major stepping stone to today's entertainmentBy Aunt BlabbyOver the centuries, entertainment has evolved from court jesters in palaces of kings to today's standups on Comedy Central. In between came sometimes all-encompassing modes of entertaining audiences of all sizes and backgrounds. Vaudeville was the all-important link between minstrels and circuses of the early 1800s to radio and television. While this is not a comprehensive history (see Joe Laurie, Jr. for that), A Pictorial History of Vaudeville enables the reader to see the faces and costumes of the top acts in vaudeville, and so it serves as an ideal complement to Joe Laurie, Jr.'s Vaudeville: From Honky Tonks to the Palace. I certainly would recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of entertainment, or in becoming entertainers themselves.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy JWBGood collection of photographs. I would have appreciated more text.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Informative and FunBy Victoria RoseGreat read and very informative. It is fun to see pictures of performers I have only read about in other books.

A new edition of the long out-of-print classic chronicle of the rise and fall of vaudeville in America, from the early minstrel shows and showboats to the emergence (and decline) of Broadway's Palace Theater as the Mecca of the entertainment industry. With loving care the book recreates vaudeville's great days when the tycoons of the business: Keith, Albee, Poli and Loew-booked, literally, thousands of "acts" which performed in hundreds of the nation's

theaters. Parading through its pages are acrobats, monologists, male and female impersonators, singers, dancers, kiddy acts and opera stars. Even the major dramatic stars such as Sarah Bernhardt and Ethel Barrymore appeared in one act plays or sketches. The headliners are all here: the Astaires, W.C. Fields, Judy Garland, Milton Berle, Burns Allen, and Jack Benny, to name only a few. With the hundreds of rare photos from the early 20th Century to the end of the fifties this book is sure to be a "must have" for collectors of Vaudeville memorabilia.

About the Author A leading American theatrical historian Bernard Sobel wrote *The Theatre Handbook and Digest of Plays* and *A Pictorial History of Burlesque*. A longtime publicist for Ziegfeld, MGM, Warners, and United Artists, Mr. Sobel also taught at Indiana University and served on the faculty of Purdue.