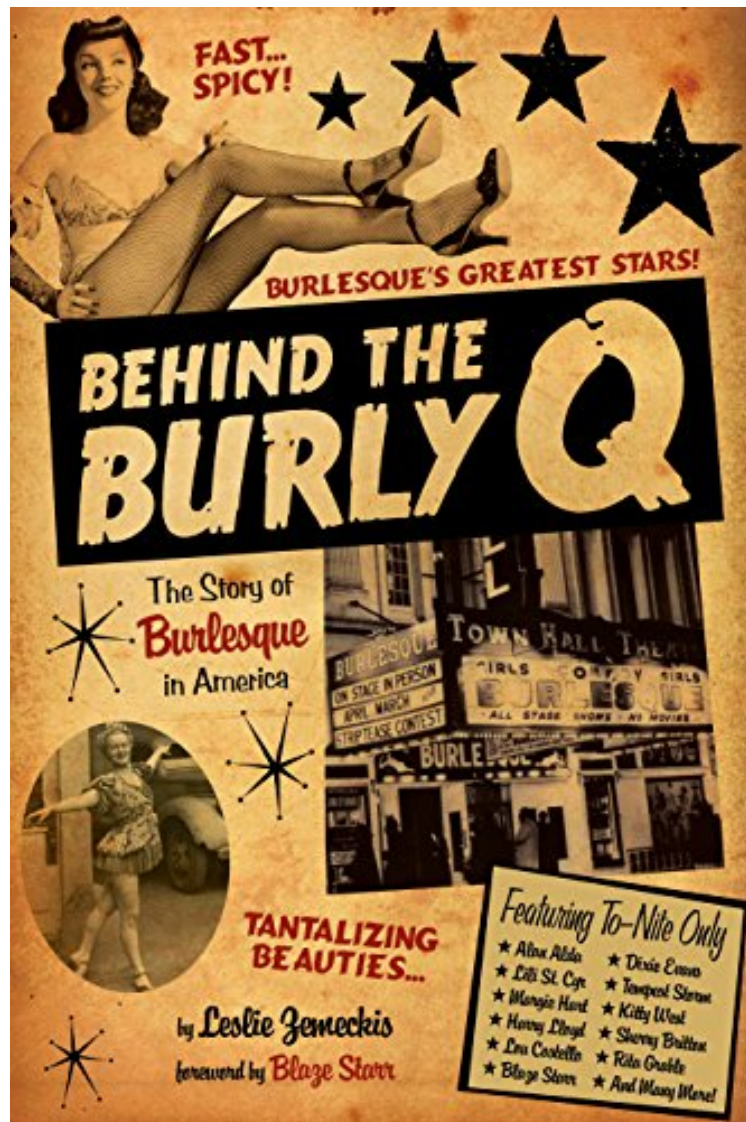


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Behind the Burly Q: The Story of Burlesque in America

Leslie Zemeckis

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Leslie Zemeckis : Behind the Burly Q: The Story of Burlesque in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind the Burly Q: The Story of Burlesque in America:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Fair Look At Burlesque By Richard A. Root This book was well documented, and did describe a time in American entertainment that was crucial to the development of radio and television (at least for the comedians and hosts of both media). However, Ms. Zemeckis deals very little with the comedians and straight men who made these transitions. She mainly interviews and talks about the strippers. They are interesting, but honestly their lives got a little tiring after a point. I understand that their lives existed within a tiny

community. She does a good job of humanizing the female entertainers who are often scorned in society. But, I found myself getting tired of the book long before it was over. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This Girl... Will Whisper a Magic Trick in Your Ear By Red Ryder A good enjoyable read especially if you are old enough to remember Burlesque. Unfortunately I was too young to have participated fully, but when I was 12 I got into the Fla. State Fair free. And I happened by the Royal American girly show and was picked to go in free. I was privileged to see a male/female baggy pants comedy team. Saw more scantily clad females than I knew existed. And of course I saw Sally Rand and her fans. Behind the Burly Q brought much of those memories forward (they were never forgotten). And of course there were always ads in the newspaper and magazines for Tempest Storm, Lili St Cyr and others. To be honest I did not appreciate my 12 year old experience until I was much older. Behind the Burly Q reinforced that experience and I heartily recommend this book. I wish I had known some of the girls. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating stories awkwardly told By Allen I have always had an interest in the lives of people who live and work in the nether worlds that most of us know nothing about - carnivals, circuses, con artists, grifters, strippers, jockeys, etc. Behind the Burly Q is full of these stories. However, the book reads like the author merely gathered up all of her excellent notes and had them published. Often the writing is choppy with short sentences apparently just piled together. It is an interesting book that simply needed editing to clear away the redundancies and to provide continuity. My review - I liked it, but it was longer than necessary and because of the above issues, hard to read.

By the director of the hit documentary Behind the Burly Q comes the first ever oral history of American Burlesque--as told by the performers who lived it, often speaking out here for the first time. By telling the intimate and surprising stories from its golden age through the women (and men!) who lived it, Behind the Burly Q reveals the true story of burlesque, even as it experiences a new renaissance. Burlesque was one of America's most popular forms of live entertainment in the first half of the 20th century. Gaudy, bawdy, and spectacular, the shows entertained thousands of paying customers every night of the week. And yet the legacy of burlesque is often vilified and misunderstood, left out of the history books. By telling the intimate and surprising stories from its golden age through the women (and men!) who lived it, Behind the Burly Q reveals the true story of burlesque, even as it experiences a new renaissance. Lovingly interviewed by burlesque enthusiast Leslie Zemeckis who produced the hit documentary of the same name, are former musicians, strippers, novelty acts, club owners, authors, and historians--assembled here for the first time ever to tell you just what really happened in a burlesque show. From Jack Ruby and Robert Kennedy to Abbott and Costello--burlesque touched every corner of American life. The sexy shows often poked fun at the upper classes, at sex, and at what people were willing to do in the pursuit of sex. Sadly, many of the performers have since passed away, making this their last, and often only interview. Behind the Burly Q is the definitive history of burlesque during its heyday and an invaluable oral history of an American art form. Funny, shocking, unbelievable, and heartbreaking, their stories will touch your hearts. We invite you to peek behind the curtain at the burly show. Includes dozens of never-before seen photographs: rare backstage photos and candid shots from the performers' personal collections. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

A well-researched, intimate portrait of burlesque and the women who teased and seduced their ways into the hearts of the American public. (Nancy Powell, Shelf Awareness) many creatively named burlesque stars Tempest Storm, Candy Cotton, Blaze Starr, Candy Barr, Val Valentine, Tee Tee Red, the list goes on interviewed at poignant, amusing and enlightening length in a new book, Behind the Burly Q: The Story of Burlesque in America. (Rick Kogan, Chicago Tribune) entertaining, and often poignant book opens up even more tales behind the twirling tassels. (Liz Smith) This rich history, rife with vibrant quotes and first-hand insights from burlesque's biggest dancers, is indispensable for fans of the ribald pastime. (Publishers Weekly) The salty reminiscences of participants in the classic age of burlesque enliven this companion volume to a documentary film directed by the author. Zemeckis assembled an impressive number of surviving performers from roughly the 1930s through the late 50s to recount their experiences toiling in this often misunderstood cul-de-sac in American performing arts. An evolution of vaudeville, burlesque added striptease to the program in an effort to lure audiences back from the movies by giving them something unavailable on the silver screen. Such luminaries as Blaze Starr, Tempest Storm and Dixie Evans dish on backstage rivalries, the depredations of the road, the stigma of stripping and all other aspects of burlesque life, providing an engaging behind-the-scenes analysis of an art form most people have heard of but few understand. In fact, the performers themselves contribute contradictory perspectives, describing the shows variously as bawdy but innocent escapism for cash-strapped regular folks or exploitative flesh parades with audiences full of men furtively masturbating behind newspapers. However, the

interviewees share a common spirit of toughness and rueful good humor, which jibes with their status as, in the main, poverty-stricken young women who could earn more disrobing than waiting tables. A defiant pride in burlesque's second-rate status in the entertainment firmamentthe performers may not have had the goods to make it in legitimate venues like the movies or Broadway, but they left the audiences happyalso unites the subjects, who take poignant pride in their brief moments of relative fame. The narrative moves briskly and will engross anyone interested in midcentury Americana. There is much colorful ground-level showbiz detail and descriptions of what it was like to work circuses, carnivals and the rotating theatrical circuit known as The Wheel, and the anecdotes are never less than good fun. An affectionate and historically valuable document of an intriguing, little-served corner of American entertainment. (Kirkus s)A privileged front-row seat to the history of burlesque! Glorious ladies in their heyday . . . their long-ago stripteases still pack a sensual, sassy, what-the-hell punch, while juicy anecdotes run from raunchy to touching to funny to flat-out incredible. (Ronnie Scheib - Variety)Utterly entertaining Behind the Burly Q is a painstakingly researched love letter to the women and men who once made up the community of burlesque performersits treasure trove of vintage photographs and performance footage is enough to make historians and fans of classic erotica swooninsightful, fascinating. (Ernest Hardy - The Village Voice)[Zemeckis] has preserved for us a lively, lovely corner of American life. (Richard Schickel)Charming . . . often entertaining . . . The present-day interviews with these women are a delight and also poignant, partly because of the contrast between their older and younger selves, though mostly because of the lives they lived . . . Its great that she immortalized these women. (Manohla Dargis - New York Times)"Behind the Burly Q takes you back . . . to burlesque's last hurrah in the 1960s. (Bob Mondello - NPR.org)About the AuthorLeslie Zemeckis is an author, actress, and award-winning documentarian. Zemeckis wrote, directed, and produced the award-winning Bound by Flesh about Siamese twins Daisy and Violet Hilton as well as the critically acclaimed Behind the Burly Q, a definitive history of burlesque.