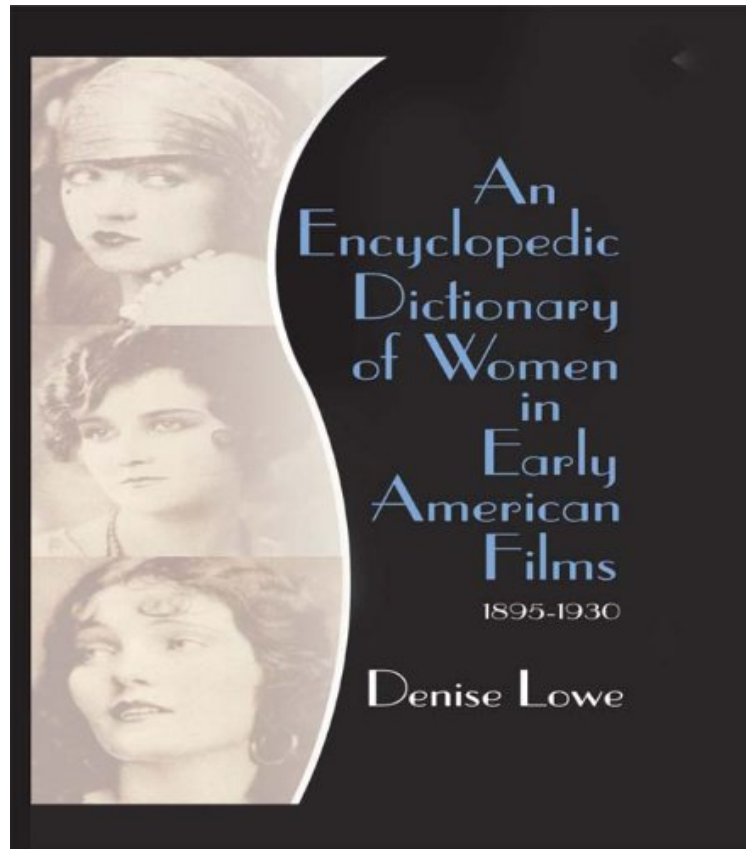


An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Women in Early American Films: 1895-1930

Denise Lowe

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Denise Lowe : An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Women in Early American Films: 1895-1930 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Women in Early American Films: 1895-1930:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A "must" if you are a lover of silent movies, or the history of movies in general
By Angie2
If you are a lover of movies cinema,(in general), then this book is a wonderful addition to your library. This book is, as the title says, an encyclopedic book regarding the silent movie actresses from 1895-1930.I bought this book because I just love the history of cinema. I was looking for a book that would give me a background on the very first actresses (ie:females) that started it all(ie: the silent movie actresses). Well, I sure found it in this book!I only wish the author would write a similar encyclopedia regarding the MALE silent film stars (ie: the actors) , because I'd buy that too!
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True-live drama and bibliographic coverage marks an A-Z reference of women in films from 1895-1930: a reference which refutes the notion that men dominated the film industry in those early years. Many women were crucial to the development of cinema, and An Encyclopedic Dictionary Of Women In Early American Films tells their stories, includes well over a hundred black and white photos, and lists film credits

alongside biographical sketches. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Essential: A VERY IMPORTANT BOOK By George Panayoti In case you are a lover of black and white movies, and curious to know about unknown women who became the legends of the silver screen, and especially silent films, then this book is what you are looking for.

Examine women's contributions to film—in front of the camera and behind it! *An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Women in Early American Films: 1895-1930* is an A-to-Z reference guide (illustrated with over 150 hard-to-find photographs!) that dispels the myth that men dominated the film industry during its formative years. Denise Lowe, author of *Women and American Television: An Encyclopedia*, presents a rich collection that profiles many of the women who were crucial to the development of cinema as an industry—and as an art form. Whether working behind the scenes as producers or publicists, behind the cameras as writers, directors, or editors, or in front of the lens as flappers, vamps, or serial queens, hundreds of women made profound and lasting contributions to the evolution of the motion picture production. *An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Women in Early American Films: 1895-1930* gives you immediate access to the histories of many of the women who pioneered the early days of cinema—on screen and off. The book chronicles the well-known figures of the era, such as Alice Guy, Mary Pickford, and Francis Marion but gives equal billing to those who worked in anonymity as the industry moved from the silent era into the age of sound. Their individual stories of professional success and failure, artistic struggle and strife, and personal triumph and tragedy fill in the plot points missing from the complete saga of Hollywood's beginnings. Pioneers of the motion picture business found in *An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Women in Early American Films* include: Dorothy Arnzer, the first woman to join the Directors Guild of America and the only female director to make a successful transition from silent films to sound; Jane Murfin, playwright and screenwriter who became supervisor of motion pictures at RKO Studios; Gene Gauntier, the actress and scenarist whose adaptation of *Ben Hur* for the Kalem Film Company led to a landmark copyright infringement case; Theda Bara, whose on-screen popularity virtually built Fox Studios before typecasting and overexposure destroyed her career; Madame Sul-Ti-Wan, nee Nellie Conley, the first African-American actor or actress to sign a film contract and be a featured performer; Dorothy Davenport, who parlayed the publicity surrounding her actor-husband's drug-related death into a career as a producer of social reform melodramas; Lois Weber, a street-corner evangelist who became one of the best-known and highest-paid directors in Hollywood; Lina Basquette, the "Screen Tragedy Girl" who married and divorced studio mogul Sam Warner, led The Hollywood Aristocrats Orchestra, claimed to have been a spy for the American Office of Strategic Services during World War II, and became a renowned dog expert in her later years and many more! *An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Women in Early American Films: 1895-1930* also includes comprehensive appendices of the WAMPAS Baby Stars, the silent stars remembered in the Graumann Chinese Theater Forecourt of the Stars and those immortalized on the Hollywood Walk of Stars. The book is invaluable as a resource for researchers, librarians, academics working in film, popular culture, and women's history, and to anyone interested either professionally or casually in the early days of Hollywood and the motion picture industry.

"Comprehensive. . . This is more than an impressive work of research and scholarship. This is a rare and special achievement." -- Brian Damude, MFA, Chair, School of Image Arts, Ryerson University "Having this kind of information easily accessible in a single volume will greatly benefit students of the silent cinema." -- Ina Bertrand, Principal Fellow, Cinema Programme, School of Fine Arts, Classical Studies, and Archaeology, University of Melbourne, Australia