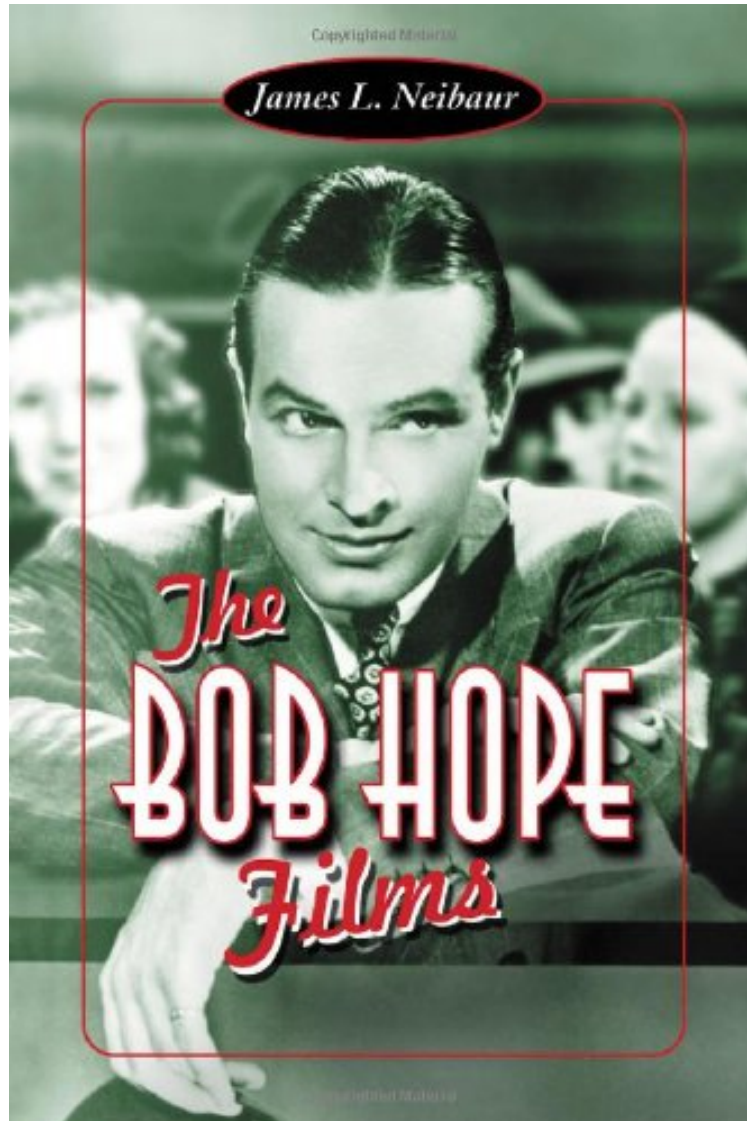


The Bob Hope Films

James L. Neibaur

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James L. Neibaur : The Bob Hope Films before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bob Hope Films:

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Nice appetizer, but where's the meal?By Nick Santa MariaI am a fan of Mr. Neibaur's writing. His book on the Jerry Lewis films is one of my favorites. This book, however, reeks of, "Hope recently died, so let's throw something together.". Hope was THE greatest single comedian working in films during the 40's into the mid 50's. He even surpassed the wonderful Red Skelton. (The best team films were made by

Abbott and Costello during this time.) Therefore, Hope's film work should have inspired a much more detailed and incisive look. Chapters seem like blurbs you'd find in a festival screening program. Quotes are minimal, and reviews even less so. When I read the great review by Simon Louvish (whom I really admire as one of the best myth busting biographers in film book history) I immediately pressed my purchase button. It isn't without value, and I can't say that I didn't enjoy the few hours it took me to read it, but come on Jim....How about a follow up that really gets to the heart of the matter? Mr. Neibaur? Mr. Louvish? Anybody???? 9 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Worst Bob Hope reference book ever By MARK C. BALE Stay away from this book. The credits for each film takes up more space than the awful brief critical review of each film. Barely a few paragraphs for each movie. Waste of money. Hopefully a definitive career book on Hope will be published one day - like the old Bio-Bibliographies from Greenwood Press. 6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Hope Springs Eternal! By David G. Maska The late Bob Hope was an amazingly prolific entertainer. Unfortunately, many people identify him with his later-day career: those Godawful TV specials and celluloid turkeys like ILL TAKE SWEDEN (amazingly, due out soon on DVD) and CALL ME BWANA. In his prime, however, Hope was an above-average physical performer and quite possibly the finest verbal comedian of his generation. From 1939 to 1954 "Rapid Robert" starred in a series of comedy films that have an astonishingly high batting average, including THE CAT AND THE CANARY, THE GHOST BREAKERS, ROAD TO MOROCCO, THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE, ROAD TO UTOPIA, MONSIEUR BEUCAIRE, MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE, ROAD TO RIO, THE PALEFACE, SON OF PALEFACE, and CASANOVA'S BIG NIGHT. It was generally downhill after that, although gems like ALIAS JESSE JAMES and THE FACTS OF LIFE turn up late in the game. If you're still undecided about Hope, try to seek out these titles. To watch these films is to see a genuine comic giant in action. James L. Neibaur's THE BOB HOPE FILMS covers the comedian's entire movie career and argues that Hope had enough screen successes to qualify as one of the all-time great screen clowns. even if you don't agree with Neibaur's overall assessment, the book nicely documents his output and serves as a reminder that there was far more to Bob Hope than those lame comedy sketches opposite Brooke Shields and Don Johnson.

Bob Hope got his start in show business when he was in his twenties, remained active past the age of 90, and lived to be 100. His longevity was remarkable, especially when one considers that he was active in vaudeville, radio, motion pictures and television. He excelled in each of these popular forms of entertainment, but his films are the most genuine testaments to his timeless comedy. His smart quips, fast pace, and breezy manner were perfect ingredients for the brand of comedy that was popular during World War II and the years immediately following the war. This book begins with a discussion of Bob Hope's early career and the short films that he starred in, and then covers each of the Hope films beginning with The Big Broadcast of 1938. The Hope films, the author says, do not have deep subtexts or clever cinematic innovations, but provide clever, uplifting entertainment that continues to inspire laughter and offer solid examples of the humor that made Americans smile during and after World War II. Cast and credit information is provided for each film.