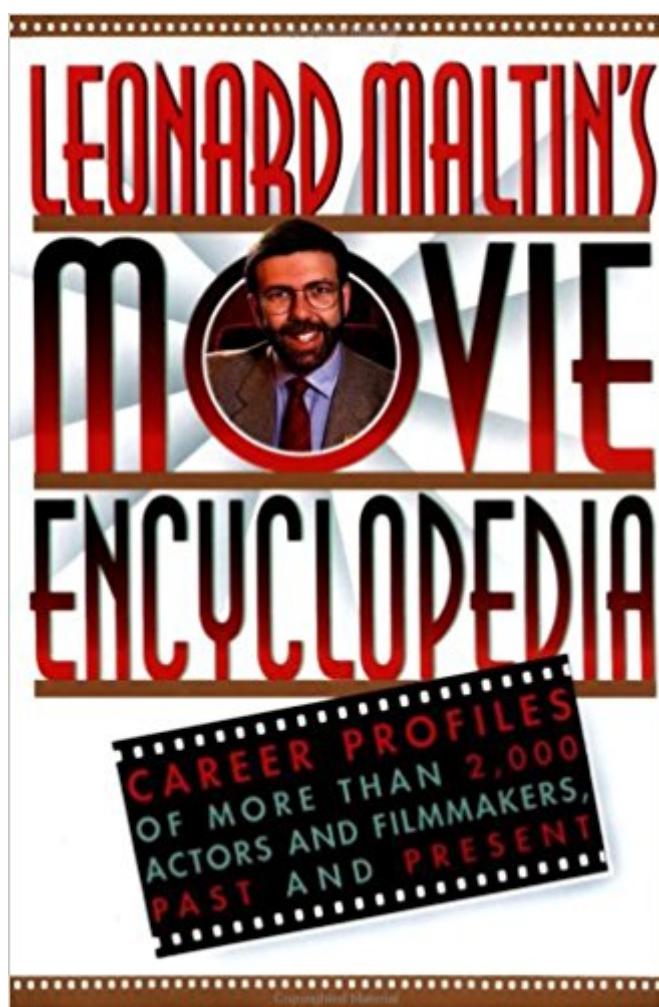


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Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia: Career Profiles Of More Than 2000 Actors And Filmmakers, Past And Present (Reference)





Synopsis

"Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia" is an essential addition for every movie fan's bookshelf - preferably right next to the TV set and VCR, where it can be propped up beside, and used in tandem with, his bestselling, annually updated "Movie & Video Guide"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great (but somewhat dated) thumb-nail biographies of the people who were genuine "movie stars" when I was "alive". Johnny Depp and Brad Pitt are about the only two I recognize today. Great read if you are into the movie biz and the stories of the people you often see on the free (antenna) cable channels. I would recommend it for those over 60 and went to the movies. Definitely a "nostalgia" trigger and most enjoyable. I wish Mr. Maltin and one of his young associates would come up with an updated version, but maybe there just are too many one hit wonders today to fill up the book.

By far, the best of his books for Classic movie lovers.

Ordered with Leonard Maltin's movie guide. For my nephew. I figured this would be a good addition for big movie lovers.

I love the movies and movie stars-these books are great if you need info on the movie or the stars in it.

An exceptional compendium, invaluable source of information and research, this work nonetheless needs an updating. Unless the reader is consulting entries prior to the early nineties, the book is useless.

With the possible exception of my books of movie ratings and summaries, LEONARD MALTIN'S MOVIE ENCYCLOPEDIA is my most helpful movie reference book. Any time I'm watching a movie I make sure to have this book close by. It's written in a very astute and knowledgeable manner, and major movie people especially get a good career-wide treatment. Theatrical films are the emphasis here, though there are a few references to people's television work too. I also like the fact that this book covers such a wide array of movie-makers, from directors to actors to costume designers to music composers, and others. Often after I look up a movie in one of my movie ratings books, I'll then consult LEONARD MALTIN'S MOVIE ENCYCLOPEDIA to see how that film ranks in importance within a person's entire career, so it's been very valuable in that regard too. I should note that since the book was published in 1995, it's mostly helpful to "classic" movie fans such as myself, so it DOES need to be updated (thus I give it 4 stars rather than 5). It's true that there are some web resources such as IMDB that have more listings of films and are more updated than this book is, yet those sites are not usually written as well, and I've seen many cases where IMDB tells little or nothing about a person, other than film listings. Also, I was at first disappointed that many people are omitted, yet I came to realize that the book could either be composed of good write-ups on fewer people, or shorter write-ups on more people, so I'm glad it's the former. Perhaps the book should be longer and split into 2 volumes so it would not be too unwieldy, since it's already about 1000 pages. But then, I imagine sales would decline as a result. As for the criticism of some reviewers that this book is highly inaccurate, I don't pretend to be a film scholar, yet in consulting other sources I have NOT found many errors in LEONARD MALTIN'S MOVIE ENCYCLOPEDIA. It would be helpful if the book included a photo of each person, in case I don't know who someone is. Highly recommended, though it does need updating.

I have had this book for almost 20 years (1995). It is the BEST book for mini-bios in entertainment BUT (& this is a big BUT): it is in DIRE need of updating! I've been waiting for a new edition since 1998 & would rush to buy one if it was available, even giving a high rating on-line and making the comment that it would be a tough choice to decide who would be included in a second edition. Now that I'm 20 years older and retired, I guess I can understand why Leonard Maltin wants to cut back

his workload since he is giving up his Movie Guides. Maybe that will give him the time to make this Encyclopedia current. I have relied on his work for decades & will really miss not having his reviews to depend on, which I find to be 99% spot on. Come on, Leonard, how about it? How about an update? We're all waiting! Now that I'm 20 years older & retired, I guess I can understand Leonard Maltin's decision to cut back his workload (I've purchased his Movie Guide every year for nearly 40 years). I am one of those people who depend on his work, though on occasion my opinion will differ a bit, but he is pretty much spot on. Since he is stopping his yearly Guides, maybe he will have the time to make this Encyclopedia current.

Initially about a year ago I made the mistake of following the other reviews which panned the book, and did not buy it. I then gradually realized that some of my favorite short bios on IMDB.com were excerpted from Maltin's Encyclopedia. Of course at that point I bought it. There are few, if any, other volumes that quickly give you the sum-up and low-down on 2,000 movie industry people. To say the book has errors and omissions is to me ridiculous...a perfect book would cost a few thousand dollars. Meanwhile, IMDB.com is available as a backstop for searching out hundreds of thousands of details, which wouldn't fit in a reasonably sized volume anyway. Generally speaking, I've gone wrong far more often in rejecting something based on a review or an opinion about a book, movie, etc., than in consuming something recommended -- you can always bail out if a recommender was wrong.

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