Laurel and Hardy: The Magic Behind the Movies
Randy Skretvedt

4.52 avg rating • 61 ratings by Goodreads

Softcover
Publisher: Moonstone Press, 1987

- Synopsis
- About this title

The beloved comedy team comes to life in this behind-the-scenes look at their unique working methods. The most detailed and accurate account of the team's career, based on exclusive interviews with their friends and associates, original shooting scripts, studio publicity material and production logs, family scrapbooks and legal depositions. Includes a who's who of supporting players and technical crew members, details on newly rediscovered films, lost footage and a resource guide.

"synopsis" may belong to another edition of this title.

From the Inside Flap:
This definitive study of Laurel and Hardy is a behind-the-scenes documentary on the beloved comedy team -- how they made their classic comedies, and what happened during the making of them. Film historian Randy Skretvedt uses original shooting scripts and unfilmed comedy routines, production logs, contracts, payroll ledgers, legal depositions, family scrapbooks and original studio publicity material -- plus exclusive interviews with dozens of the team's friends and co-workers -- to recreate, as never before, the unique environment in which the films were made.

Film by film, "Laurel and Hardy" truly evokes the magic behind the movies -- gag sessions, practical jokes, special effects, technical problems, musical scores, sneak previews, retakes, publicity campaigns and foreign language versions. Their unorthodox working methods are explored in meticulous detail. The book provides much previously unknown and unpublished information about Laurel's contract disputes with Hal Roach and the team's creative conflicts with 20th Century-Fox, as well as the marital problems that often disrupted the comedians' private lives.

Rare photographs -- most never-before-published -- depict Laurel and Hardy filming on location, working with directors and co-stars, entertaining visitors to the set, clowning on the studio lot and relaxing with their wives; they are also shown in a variety of scenes that ended up on the cutting room floor. Original poster art and advertising, unseen for decades, further delineates the past. The book is appended by a Who's Who of supporting players who populated the films of Laurel and Hardy, and the technical crew responsible for so much of the magic behind the movies.

About the Author:
Randy Skretvedt is an entertainment historian who has been a Laurel and Hardy buff since the age of five. He is editor of "Past Times: The Nostalgia Entertainment Newsletter" and host of the popular radio program, "Forward Into the Past" (KSPC, Los Angeles). He is frequently called upon as a researcher, consultant and annotator for books, CDs and other projects on vintage entertainers.

"About this title" may belong to another edition of this title.
If you are a Laurel and Hardy fan, I can't recommend a better book on these two comedy legends and I for one will treasure this book as the ultimate tribute to Laurel & Hardy. Read more. 8 people found this helpful. I had two previous versions of Laurel & Hardy: The Magic Behind the Movies and this one is about four times the size of the last edition I had. If you are new to Laurel and Hardy, this book may be too much for you! But, if you are like me and have loved them and their movies since childhood, this book is an exciting addition to everyone's Laurel and Hardy collection. Every movie they made together and more is included in this book with a wealth of information on each film even many of the foreign language films are included. Laurel and Hardy book. Read 7 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. The beloved comedy team comes to life in this behind-the-scenes look at their unique working methods. The most detailed and accurate account of the team's career, based on exclusive interviews with their friends and associates, original shooting scripts, studio publicity material and production logs, family scrapbooks and legal depositions. Includes a who's who of supporting players and technical crew members, details on newly rediscovered films, lost footage and a resource guide. ...more. Remember, Laurel & Hardy: The Magic Behind the Movies is now in a Special Limited Collector's Edition. This oversized 8.5 by 11 hardcover features heavy glossy paper and all the trimmings of a top-quality art book, to help show off its 1,000 rare photographs and greatly expanded text. That's nearly 50% more text and quadruple the number of photos of previous editions. Close to 800 of the images are new to this edition, and include many never-before-published, one-of-a-kind pictures from Babe Hardy's personal collection.