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Conversations with Classic Film Stars: Interviews from Hollywood's Golden Era

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library anthropology, archeology, and marine biology collection.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D
University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Conversations with Classic Film Stars: Interviews from Hollywood's Golden Era. James Bawden and Ron Miller. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8131-6710-7. 428 pages. \$26.98.



The outstanding monograph revealing interviews with superstars by television columnists James Bawden and Ron Miller includes Contents, Introduction, the chapters I. The Silent Era Jackie Coogan, I. The Silent Era Gloria Swanson, II. The Leading Men Ralph Bellamy, II. The Leading Men Rory Calhoun, II. The Leading Men Joseph Cotton, II. The Leading Men Kirk Douglas, II. The Leading Men Melvyn Douglas, II. The Leading Men Douglas Fairbanks Jr., II. The Leading Men Glenn Ford, II. The Leading Men Cary Grant, II. The Leading Men Van Johnson, III. The Leading Ladies Anne Baxter, III. The Leading Ladies Joan Blondell, III. The Leading Ladies Irene Dunne, III. The Leading Ladies Joan Fontaine, III. The Leading Ladies Dorothy Lamour, III. The Leading Ladies Anna Lee, III. The Leading Ladies Dorothy McGuire, III. The Leading Ladies Maureen O'Hara, III. The Leading Ladies Luise Rainer, III. The Leading Ladies Rosalind Russell, III. The Leading Ladies Fay Wray, III. The Leading Ladies Jane Wyman, III. The Leading Ladies Loretta Young, IV. The Queens of the Bs Jane Greer, IV. The Queens of the Bs Audrey Totter, IV. The Queens of the Bs Marie Windsor, V. The Singing Cowboys Gene Autry, V. The Singing Cowboys Roy Rogers, VI. A Giant Comedy Bob Hope, VII. Four Very Special Stars Margaret Hamilton, VII. Four Very Special Stars Keye Luke, VII. Four Very Special Stars Harold Russell, VII. Four Very Special Stars Diane Varsi, Acknowledgments, About the Authors, and an accurate Index.

The work has some connection to the South by content. Four of the interviewed stars were born in the South. Joseph Cotton, was born in Petersburg, Virginia. Melvyn Douglas was born in Macon, Georgia. Irene Dunne was born in Louisville, Kentucky and Dorothy Lamour was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. The productions in which the interviewed famous persons have played also have some connection with the South. The 1943 movie *Dixie* in which Dorothy Lamour was showcased is about a Kentuckian writer of songs Daniel Decatur Emmet who moved to New Orleans. The 1939 movie *Gone with the Wind* is set in Georgia. Joseph Cotton starred in the movie *Hush...Hush Sweet Charlotte* set in Hollisport, Louisiana. *Inherit the Wind* is a fictional play about the teaching of evolution which was illegal in a Tennessee high school. The 1941 movie *My Life with Caroline* uses a Florida location. The 1974 movie *Mame* includes the city of Peckerwood, Georgia. The state of Tennessee is where a soldier portrayed by Van Johnson grew up in the movie *Miracle in the Rain*. *One Sunday Afternoon* is a 1933 movie featuring Fay Wray as Virginia named after the state of Virginia. The camp in the 1961 movie *The Parent Trap* is like a camp in Asheville, North Carolina. The 1936 movie *Show Boat* is set in Mississippi. The 1944 movie *Sunday Dinner for a Soldier* uses the location of Florida. The location of the 1941 movie *Swamp Water* is Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia. The locality of the 1962 movie *Walk on the Wild Side* is New Orleans. The spot of the 1946 movie *The Yearling* is Florida. The excellent text is part of *Screen Classics*, a group of monographs, produced by the University of Kentucky about shows.

Each chapter is titled by the star's name. All chapters indicate Ron Miller or James Bawden as the interviewer. Every chapter includes the sections "Setting the Scene," "The Interview," and "Afterword." "Afterword" makes known how, when, and where the screen idol died. "Setting the Scene" discloses the location of the interview such as the residence, dressing room, a hotel, lunch, high tea, a restaurant, the television show set, movie sets, telephone interviews, press conferences, or museums in the stars' honor.

The writing style intrigues the reader with the content about thirty-four luminaries' glamour, talent, and fascinating lives. Clearly, the perceived interest to the readership of the journal is absolute. One hundred black and white photographs with descriptions underneath the photographs captivantly add to the discussion of the icons. The wonderful masterpiece is perfect for public and academic libraries and researchers of Hollywood golden celebrities.

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University of Louisiana at Monroe Library