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Miriam Hopkins: Life and Films of a Hollywood Rebel

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Like Joe Forsee, I think of Lorraine as the life of the party but also as a leader and mentor to many. She would use every occasion from a black-tie event to a committee meeting to encourage young librarians to become more engaged and vested in our library organizations and profession. Untold librarians thank Lorraine for nudging them forward in their careers and providing sound counsel when needed.

Lorraine Summers will be missed by those that knew her and respected her throughout the library community.

The family requests that donations be made to Pisgah United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 165777, Tallahassee, Florida 32317.

Works Cited

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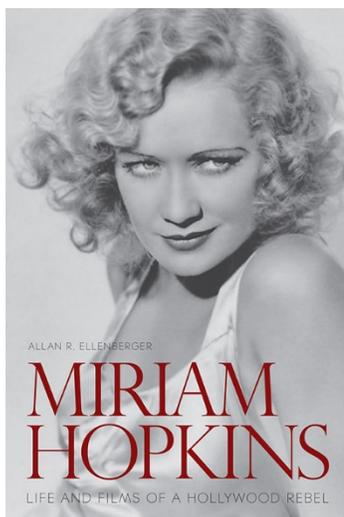
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Contributed by Judith Gibbons

BOOK REVIEWS

Miriam Hopkins: Life and Films of a Hollywood Rebel. Allan R. Ellenberger. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2018. ISBN: 9780813174310 (Hardcover: acid-free paper); 9780813174327 (pdf); 9778-813174334 (epub) \$44.98. 360 p.



This matchless masterpiece is part of the University of Kentucky Press Screen Classics series, a group of monographs produced by University of Kentucky on movies connected to Kentucky. Miriam Hopkins grew up in Georgia. She was friends with Tennessee Williams and starred in his play *Battle of Angels*. Seventy-five black and white photographs of Miriam Hopkins and associates beautify the book encompassing pictures of Miriam Hopkins with her family, in films, television, and radio, family members, and one of her residences at Sutton Place, New York. The writing style is superior and enchants the reader with the glitzy and adventurous life of a beautiful actress Miriam Hopkins and her friends, family, boyfriends, coworkers, her adopted son Michael, and four husbands.

The Epilogue details facts about eighteen people very involved in Miriam Hopkins life. The bibliography consists of ninety-five excellent references. Eight hundred and eighty-three notes incorporates Notes divided by Prologue, the twenty-one chapters, and Epilogue. The Appendix covers all the performances of Miriam Hopkins partitioned by Stage Appearances, Filmography, and Television Appearances. The Stage Appearances include the name of the performance, the year and where the performance occurred, the cast, how many times performed, when it premiered, and who produced and wrote the performance. The Filmography embraces the name of the film, the year of the film, the film industry producer, cast, director, the length of the film, and when released. Television Appearances notes names and dates of the television shows, the television network such as NBC, ABC, or CBS, and the cast.

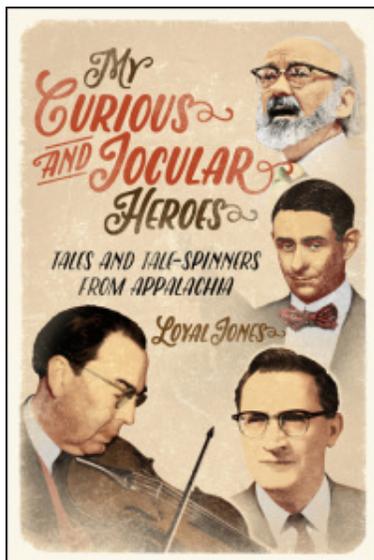
The fascinating book in addition lists the names and authors of the other forty-nine books in the University of Kentucky Screen Classics series. Some films Miriam Hopkins starred in are *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* with Fredric March, *Design for Living* in conjunction with Gary Cooper, *The Stranger's Return* along with Lionel Barrymore, *She Loves Me Not* together with Bing Crosby, *The Old Maid* with Bette Davis, and *The Heiress* in the company of Olivia de Havilland and Montgomery Clift. Other films featuring Miriam Hopkins consist of *Virginia City* next to Errol Flynn, *Old Acquaintance* as well as Bette Davis, *Barbary Coast* alongside Edward G. Robinson and David Niven, *Fast and Loose* with Carole Lombard and Frank Morgan, and *The Smiling Lieutenant* plus Maurice Chevalier and Claudette Colbert.

Curiously, Miriam Hopkins was related to Charles Dickens and signers of the American Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Miriam Hopkins resided in Palm Springs, New York Sutton Place, Santa Monica, and Beverly Hills. Hopkins displayed Monet, Picasso, and Rembrandt and vases from 1700s China in her homes. She was friends with Dorothy Parker, Theodore Dreiser, Kitty Carlisle, and Gertrude Stein. Miriam Hopkins vacationed in Munich, Budapest, and Russia and the Moscow Art Theatre. Further enchanting places where Miriam Hopkins vacationed are highlighted like Italy and Palazzo in Rome, Paris and Versailles, Catskills, and Key West. Miriam dined at New York's Quo Vadis. The book reveals her

exciting relationships with her four husbands, coworkers, family, friends, and various boyfriends. She worked with Paramount, MGM, Goldwyn, RKO, and Warner Brothers. Allan R. Ellenberger, the author, in addition wrote five other books such as *The Valentino Mystique: The Death and Aftermath of the Silent Movie Idol* and *Celebrities in the 1930 Census*. The recommendation for audience is anyone interested in dazzling film and theatre and film and theatre celebrities. The astonishingly detailed stunning success on Miriam Hopkins is perfect for public and academic libraries.

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My Curious and Jocular Heroes: Tales and Tale-Spinners from Appalachia. Loyal Jones. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2017. ISBN 978-0252041136. \$95.00 (Cloth). ISBN 9780252082672. \$25.00 (Paper) 246 p.



Anyone who appreciates entertaining stories, plaintive ballads, and ribald humor will enjoy this collection of biographies of four of the pre-eminent folklorists of Appalachia. In *My Curious and Jocular Heroes: Tales and Tale-Spinners from Appalachia*, Loyal Jones, a recognized scholar in Appalachian folk life and lore, provides biographical sketches and samples from the collections of four Appalachian folklore luminaries: Bascom Lamar Lunsford, Josiah H. Combs, Cratis D. Williams and Leonard W. Roberts.

The former executive director of the Council of Southern Mountains and later director of the Appalachian Center at Berea College till 1993, Loyal Jones is a noted scholar in Appalachian studies with significant publications to his credit. His profiles of these four individuals and the selected material he includes to represent them, highlight the importance he places on entertaining to illustrate and instruct.

While all four men were eminent in their field, each brought something unique to the study of Appalachian folklife. Hailing from North Carolina, Bascom Lamar Lunsford, music collector and performer, was perhaps best known for his tireless promotion of the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in Asheville, the first festival to focus on authentic Appalachian dance and music. Generous with his time and knowledge, he donated hours to recording memorized tales and songs for the archives at Columbia University and the Library of Congress.

Josiah H. Combs, born in the Kentucky mountains, achieved scholarly recognition with his dissertation from the University of Paris in 1925, *Folk-Songs of the Southern United States*, that was both a collection and examination of the Appalachian ballad tradition. Author of several other books devoted to the Kentucky highlands, he was also a dialectician and instrumental in applying his linguistic knowledge to studying the speech of his native mountain Kentuckians.

Cratis D. Williams, another Kentucky native, received academic kudos for his 1600 page dissertation *The Southern Mountaineer in Fact and Fiction* (New York University, 1961), and was an authority on Appalachian folklore and traditions, as well as a performer and raconteur. From 1946 to 1976 he served at Appalachian State University, formerly Appalachian State Teachers College, as faculty and later administrator.

Leonard Roberts, author of several books on Kentucky folklore, collected and documented the folktales and songs from his native East Kentucky and studied the evolution of tales and stories through expression and performance. He recognized that while the tales themselves were important, it was more crucial to understand how people thought about and told the stories, to truly comprehend Appalachian culture. He's remembered for his performances and narratives of local families with their collections of Appalachian folk tales and songs.

The charm of the book, however, lies in the ballads, tales, humorous stories and songs accompanying each of the short profiles. From the chosen selections, the reader gains an understanding of each man's interests and performance repertoire and can appreciate their contributions to the study of Southern Mountain folklore. With footnotes, bibliographical references, pictures and index, the book serves as an introductory resource to celebrated scholars in the field of Appalachian folklore, while also delighting the reader with samples of the oral traditions of the southern highlands. Recommended for academic and public libraries.

Melanie Dunn
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