



Mae West

Jill Watts



Mae West:

Mae West Jill Watts, 2003-04-17 Why don't you come up and see me sometime Mae West invited and promptly captured the imagination of generations Even today years after her death the actress and author is still regarded as the pop archetype of sexual wantonness and ribald humor But who was this saucy starlet a woman who was controversial enough to be jailed pursued by film censors and banned from the airwaves for the revolutionary content of her work and yet would ascend to the status of film legend Sifting through previously untapped sources author Jill Watts unravels the enigmatic life of Mae West tracing her early years spent in the Brooklyn subculture of boxers and underworld figures and follows her journey through burlesque vaudeville Broadway and finally Hollywood where she quickly became one of the big screen's most popular and colorful stars Exploring West's penchant for contradiction and her carefully perpetuated paradoxes Watts convincingly argues that Mae West borrowed heavily from African American culture music dance and humor creating a subversive voice for herself by which she artfully challenged society and its assumptions regarding race class and gender Viewing West as a trickster Watts demonstrates that by appropriating for her character the black tradition of double speak and signifying West also may have hinted at her own African American ancestry and the phenomenon of a black woman passing for white This absolutely fascinating study is the first comprehensive interpretive account of Mae West's life and work It reveals a beloved icon as a radically subversive artist consciously creating her own complex image Mae West Simon Louvish, 2006-11-14 Louvish's research cements West's reputation as the definitive siren of suggestion without whom there would never have been any Sex and the City Publishers Weekly Mae West Carol M. Ward, 1989-03-27 This provocative work analyzes Mae West's long life and productive career in three major phases the early theater years her meteoric film career in the thirties and her subsequent life as a popular culture legend It examines her theatrical approach to life and her unique talent for translating a low comic variety style into a subtle satire of melodramatic conventions West's attempts to control her comic creation led her into many public battles over her claims to authorship of her plays and filmscripts The book's bibliography explores her talents as a writer summarizing the plays and books she wrote and investigating the validity of those claims A thorough study of West's background and attitudes this volume combines the approaches of both biographical and critical artistic analysis and broadens our understanding of how Mae West fits into American popular culture The book examines West's philosophy of success and how it was reflected in her personal and professional life and places her in a historical and cultural perspective without forcing her personality into predetermined categories This bio bibliography provides a fresh view of the legendary Mae West and a new insight into the complexity of her artistry and social vision It will be a valuable addition to all public libraries and a useful resource in the study of American popular culture and film history **The Complete Films of Mae West** Jon Tuska, 1992 *Becoming Mae West* Emily Worth Leider, 2000-04-06 Emily Worth Leider combines newly uncovered archival material fine writing and a rich appreciation of West's unique blend of comedy and come

hither appeal to shape this enormously engrossing biography and portrait of an era She gives us not just Mae West the bawdy icon but also the driven performer who honed her act on the vaudeville circuit wrote her own material to get a decent part and never stopped battling the censor the very people who provided some of her best publicity but who eventually struck a blow for prudery from which her career would never recover

Mae West Maurice Leonard,1992 Mae West was the archetypal film star and the epitome of glamor A short plump girl from Brooklyn who aspired to stardom she shot to international fame as an outlandish sex goddess yet her road to stardom was rocky Now top TV producer and distinguished biographer Maurice Leonard brings to life the real Mae West her audacity her courage her genius Photographs

Mae West Mae West, **She Always Knew How** Charlotte Chandler,2012-12-11 Sex goddess Mae West is responsible for some of the most quoted lines in film history Is that a gun in your pocket or are you just happy to see me When I m good I m very good but when I m bad I m better It s not the men in my life that counts it s the life in my men She was a performer from childhood and debuted on Broadway in a play she wrote entitled Sex which was a success until it was raided for immorality and Mae was jailed for ten days This book is packed with stars from George Raft to Cary Grant and W C Fields with whom she made My Little Chickadee the most successful film of Fields career Charlotte Chandler recorded Mae West over a period of roughly a month towards the end of the star s life She was still as vital and lively as ever and this book will convey all of Mae West s legendary attitude

Mae West Fergus Cashin,1981 Biografia de la actriz estadounidense mae west en la que se narra su vida su filmografia etc

Three Plays by Mae West Mae West,1997 This volume brings an underexplored part of Mae West s career to the fore by offering for the first time in book form three of the plays West wrote in the 1920s Sex set in a Montreal brothel The Drag which used the theatricality of the drag queens who had become her friends and Pleasure Man a revenge fantasy 8 illustrations

Mae West Simon Louvish,2007-11-27 Sex goddess Hollywood star transgressive playwright author blues singer and vaudeville brat Mae West remains the twentieth century s greatest comedienne She made an everlasting mark in trailblazing Broadway plays such as Sex and The Constant Sinner and in films such as She Done Him Wrong Klondike Annie and I m No Angel Simon Louvish biographer of W C Fields the Marx Brothers Laurel and Hardy and Keystone s Mack Sennett brings Mae to vibrant life in this unparalleled new biography He charts her amazing seven decades in show business from early years in teenage summer stock to her last reincarnation as 1960s gay icon and grande dame of Hollywood survivors Mae West It Ain t No Sin is the first biography to make use of Mae s recently uncovered personal papers offering an unprecedented view into the endless creative drive and daring wit of this legendary star

Goodness Had Nothing to Do with it Mae West,1959

Mae West Michael Gregg Michaud,2018-05-23 Collected for the first time are some of the most revealing amusing and rare interviews covering Mae West s ten year career in movies West s celluloid image was explosive and trendsetting but her outspoken and progressive thoughts about women and sexuality shocked and seduced the public Her feminist riffs and screenplays made her a cultural icon for sexuality and social subversion In the

1930s she was not only considered scandalous but positively dangerous In a male dominated industry she stood alone I don't mind telling you she told a journalist I'm about as fed up on this pseudo frigidity in women as a lot of men are It all started a few hundred years ago with some religious fanatics who decided because the religious leaders had been supernaturally conceived it naturally followed that any expression of sex through the human body must be sinful Bosh Mae West George Eells, Stanley Musgrove, 1982 *The Autobiography of Mae West* Mae West, 1960 *Mae West* J. Huston, 2022-03-02

Mae West Clive Hirschhorn, 2009 In 1968 noted film and theatre critic Clive Hirschhorn was a young feature writer for the London Sunday Express In Hollywood on assignment he heard that the legendary Mae West loved British accents and was able to get an interview with the 75 year old film star His observations on the official Mae and the actual woman behind the public persona provide new insights into this complex much caricatured and compelling cultural icon This book offers a funny touching and revealing account of the life of the woman who made it possible to say sex in public Her scripted quips are legendary and she was able to zing them in real life When Hirschhorn asked her how she managed to look so uncannily young at 75 her skin was flawless and her face unlined she replied No secret I go to bed early I meditate I eat all the correct foods I don't smoke or drink and I believe with a passion in myself You can only beat nature when you show the bitch who's boss Leonard Maltin in his Foreword says Mae West was an absolute and resolute original There has never been anyone else quite like her Her reputation has survived the decades Young people might not know of her but she is still widely quoted and referred to in articles and books How many other show business personalities who flourished in the 1920s and 30s can say the same in the first decade of the 21st century Clive Hirschhorn is the author of the best selling *The Hollywood Musical* as well as *Gene Kelly A Biography* *The Films of James Mason* *The Warner Bros Story* *The Universal Story* and *The Columbia Story* **Mae West** George Eells, Stanley Musgrove, 1989 *Mae West* Carol Bergman, 1988 Traces the life of the stage and screen performer from her Brooklyn childhood and vaudeville period to success in Hollywood and the final years **The Wit and Wisdom of Mae West** Mae West, 1967

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Mae West Introduction

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