# Mae West: She Who Laughs, Last (American Biographical History)

Sochen, June

# **Mae West She Who Laughs Lasts**

Valerie J. Matsumoto, Blake Allmendinger

#### **Mae West She Who Laughs Lasts:**

Three Plays by Mae West Lillian Schlissel, 2013-01-11 Mae West wise cracking vaudeville performer was one of the most controversial figures of her era Rarely however do people think of Mae West as a writer In Three Plays By Mae West Lillian Schlissel brings this underexplored part of 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 1926 The Drag 1927 and Pleasure Man 1928 With an insightful introduction by Schlissel this book offers a unique look into to the life and early career of this legendary stage and screen actress Valerie J. Matsumoto, Blake Allmendinger, 2023-09-01 From the Gold Rush to rush hour the history of the American West is fraught with diverse subversive and at times downright eccentric elements. This provocative volume challenges traditional readings of western history and literature and redraws the boundaries of the American West with absorbing essays ranging widely on topics from tourism to immigration from environmental battles to interethnic relations and from law to film Taken together the essays reassess the contributions of a diverse and multicultural America to the West as they link western issues to global frontiers Featuring the latest work by some of the best new writers both inside and outside academia the original essays in Over the Edge confront the traditional field of western American studies with a series of radical speculative and sometimes outrageous challenges The collection reads the West through Ben Hur and the films of Mae West revises the western American literary canon to include the works of African American and Mexican American writers examines the implications of miscegenation law and American Indian blood quantum requirements and brings attention to the historical participation of Mexican and Japanese American women Native American slaves and Alaskan cannery workers in community life From the Gold Rush to rush hour the history of the American West is fraught with diverse subversive and at times downright eccentric elements This provocative volume challenges traditional readings of western history and literature and redraws the bo 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 The Encyclopedia of Vaudeville Anthony Slide, 2012-03-12 The Encyclopedia of Vaudeville provides a unique record of what was once America s preeminent form of popular entertainment from the late 1800s through the early 1930s It includes entries not only on the entertainers themselves but also on those who worked behind the scenes the theatres genres and historical terms Entries on

individual vaudevillians include biographical information samplings of routines and often commentary by the performers Many former vaudevillians were interviewed for the book including Milton Berle Block and Sully Kitty Doner Fifi D Orsay Nick Lucas Ken Murray Fayard Nicholas Olga Petrova Rose Marie Arthur Tracy and Rudy Vallee Where appropriate entries also include bibliographies The volume concludes with a guide to vaudeville resources and a general bibliography Aside from its reference value with its more than five hundred entries The Encyclopedia of Vaudeville discusses the careers of the famous and the forgotten Many of the vaudevillians here including Jack Benny George Burns and Gracie Allen Jimmy Durante W C Fields Bert Lahr and Mae West are familiar names today thanks to their continuing careers on screen At the same time and given equal coverage are forgotten acts legendary female impersonators Bert Savoy and Jay Brennan the vulgar Eva Tanguay with her billing as The I Don t Care Girl male impersonator Kitty Doner and a host of freak acts **Too Much of a Good Thing** Ramona Curry, 1996 Before Madonna before Marilyn there was Mae The impact of Mae West through her films attitude and aphorisms Too much of a good thing can be wonderful Is that a gun in your pocket or are you just glad to see me continues to reverberate through American popular culture more than fifteen years after her death In Too Much of a Good Thing Ramona Curry examines the interplay between West's bawdy worldly persona and twentieth century gender and media politics Although West has remained an important figure her image has fulfilled varied cultural functions In the thirties she was a lightning rod for debates over morality and censorship In the seventies the complexity of her portrayal of gender made her a controversial figure for both the gay rights and feminist movements Curry not only analyzes the symbolic roles West has occupied arguing that the entertainer represents a carefully orchestrated transgression of race class and gender expectations she also illustrates how icons of pop culture often distill contested social issues serving diverse and even contradictory political functions A pithy and innovative look at what Mae West means Too Much of a Good Thing is must reading for fans film buffs and anyone interested in how popular culture evolves and circulates in the United States Policing Public Sex Ephen Glenn Colter, Dangerous Bedfellows, 1996 As some activists have turned to regulation rather than education in the effort to curb the AIDS epidemic the public culture at the foundation of gueer culture has come under attack From Mae to Madonna June Sochen, 2014-07-11 Entertainers were the first group of successful women to capture the public eye taking to the stage in vaudeville and film and redefining their place in society June Sochen introduces the white African American and Latina women who danced on Broadway fell on bananas in silent films and wisecracked in smoky clubs as well as the modern icons of today s movies and popular music S ochen considers such women as Mae West Bette Davis Shirley Temple Lucille Ball and Mary Tyler Moore to discover what show business did for them and what they did for the world of entertainment She uses the life of 30s and 40s Latina star Lupe Velez as a case study of the roles available to Latinas in popular culture She then contrasts her story with that of the African American action star Pam Grier to demonstrate the old and new ways minority women are portrayed in popular

culture From Mae to Madonna places each woman within the context of her time and talks about her relationship with dominant female stereotypes Sochen discusses women's roles as Mary Eve and Lilith and asks thought provoking questions Why did the Depression give women movie stars so many important roles while the so called feminist 1970s did not Why has television been a congenial venue for women comics while film has not In examining how entertainers worked within or transformed particular genres and how their personal and public lives affected their careers From Mae to Madonna casts the spotlight on a series of remarkable women and their dramatic effect on America's popular culture Gav New York George Chauncey, 2008-08-01 The award winning field defining history of gay life in New York City in the early to mid 20th century Gay New York brilliantly shatters the myth that before the 1960s gay life existed only in the closet where gay men were isolated invisible and self hating Drawing on a rich trove of diaries legal records and other unpublished documents George Chauncey constructs a fascinating portrait of a vibrant cohesive gay world that is not supposed to have existed Called monumental Washington Post unassailable Boston Globe brilliant The Nation and a first rate book of history The New York Times Gay New Yorkforever changed how we think about the history of gay life in New York City and beyond Derek Jones, 2001-12-01 Censorship A World Encyclopedia presents a comprehensive view of censorship from Ancient Egypt to those modern societies that claim to have abolished the practice For each country in the world the history of censorship is described and placed in context and the media censored are examined art cyberspace literature music the press popular culture radio television and the theatre not to mention the censorship of language the most fundamental censorship of all Also included are surveys of major controversies and chronicles of resistance Censorship will be an essential reference work for students of the many subjects touched by censorship and for all those who are interested in the history of and contemporary fate of freedom of expression

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