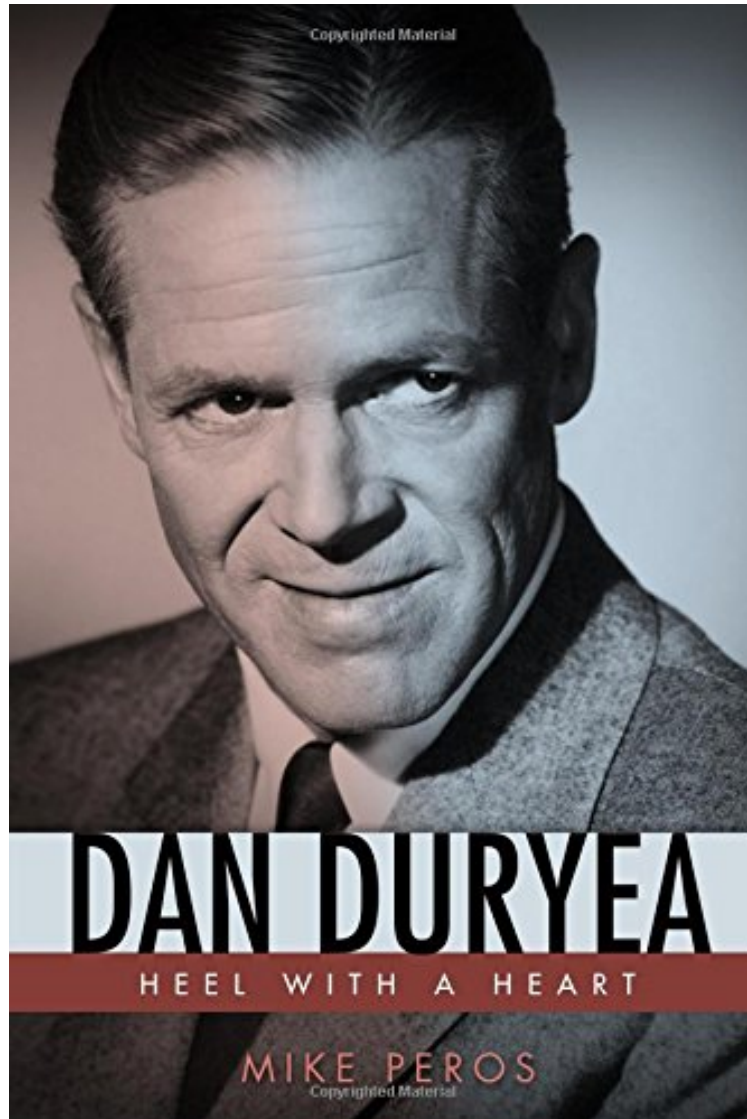


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Dan Duryea: Heel with a Heart (Hollywood Legends Series)

Mike Peros

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Mike Peros : Dan Duryea: Heel with a Heart (Hollywood Legends Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dan Duryea: Heel with a Heart (Hollywood Legends Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I am very much looking forward to reading it and am sure I will enjoy it.By fulhamOnly received the book 2 days ago. I am very much looking forward to reading it and am sure I will enjoy it.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A good, bad guyBy Kindle CustomerFirst, I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in return for a review. The book should be labeled The Works of Dan Duryea, because

9/10ths of the book is a trip down memory lane. Only about 1/10th is about his life, the rest is a very complete list of his movies and tv appearances. It is more like a synopsis of the stories. I remember watching many of the programs and it brought back memories of a time when the bad guys never won, but sometimes weren't all bad. I always like when Mr. Duryea was in a program, no matter the role, he always seemed to have a twinkle in his eye. I wish more of his life was told in this book. The copy I read, had no photos, but hopefully the finished product will.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well deserved tribute to Dan Duryea By CJS Well researched bio on Hollywood bad guy Dan Duryea. The author was thorough in his research, not only talking with Duryea's son but his co-stars and neighbors as well. The book had a lot of great photos in it as well. Duryea was one of those bad guys in films but in real life a really nice guy. But the public liked him as a bad guy so he very rarely got to play nice guys. I liked the filmography as it showed not only the date and title of the film but the director and if it was on dvd, you tube, or hard to find. His television appearances were also listed in another appendix. The author did a nice job of mixing Duryea's personal life with the film summaries although it was more heavy on the film summaries than Duryea's personal life. However, he did follow up as to what happened with Duryea's sons which was appreciated. A well deserved tribute to Duryea.

Dan Duryea (1907-1968) made a vivid impression on moviegoers with his first major screen appearance as the conniving Leo Hubbard in 1941's classic melodrama *The Little Foxes*. His subsequent film and television career would span from 1941 until his death. Duryea remains best known for the nasty, scheming villains he portrayed in such noir masterpieces as *Scarlet Street*, *Criss Cross*, and *The Woman in the Window*. In each of these, he wielded a blend of menace, sleaze, confidence, and surface charm. This winning combination led him to stardom and garnered him the adoration of female fans, even though Duryea's onscreen brutality so often targeted female characters. Yet this biography's close examination of Duryea's oeuvre finds him excelling in various roles in many genres: war films, westerns, crime dramas, and even the occasional comedy. *Dan Duryea: Heel with a Heart* is a full-scale, comprehensive biography that examines the tension between Duryea's villainous screen image and his Samaritan personal life. At home, he proved to be one of Hollywood's most honorable and decent men. Duryea remained married to the former Helen Bryan from 1931 until her death in 1967. A dedicated family man, he and Helen took an active role in raising their children and in the community. In his career, Duryea knew villainous roles were what the public wanted; there would be a public backlash if fans read an article depicting what a decent guy he was. Frustrated that he couldn't completely shake his screen image and public persona, he wrestled with this restriction throughout his career. Producers and the public did not care to follow any new directions he hoped to pursue. This book, written with Duryea's surviving son Richard's cooperation, fully explores the life and legacy of a Hollywood icon ready for rediscovery.

Peros focuses mainly on Duryea's artistic output, moving the reader through each credit from the actor's Hollywood debut, *The Little Foxes*, through his final major role, on the prime-time soap *Peyton Place*. Peros writes with the informal enthusiasm of a fan, gifting the reader an exhaustive review of the complete works of Duryea, including true Hollywood classics (*Ball of Fire*, *The Pride of the Yankees*), forgotten flops (*Chicago Calling*), and guest spots on early television shows (*December Bride*, *Wagon Train*). Publishers Weekly With thorough research and the assistance of Duryea's son Richard, Peros crafts a well-intentioned biography best suited to film noir completists. Library Journal Mr. Peros fills the pages of *Dan Duryea: Heel with a Heart* with detailed synopses of his subjects more than sixty films and several dozen television appearances; a yeoman's chronicle that brings welcome attention to some lesser-known Duryea items (such as the recently restored 1949 noir *Too Late for Tears*). Tom Nolan, *Wall Street Journal* If you're looking for a guided chronological tour of Duryea's career from the moment of his onstage breakthrough . . . complete with a comprehensive overview of his television work, this is an awfully handy piece of work. Nick Pinkerton, *Film Comment* Mike Peros's *Dan Duryea: Heel with a Heart* is an extensively researched career biography of the talented and memorable actor who has, until now, received only minimal critical attention. The book clearly represents a labor of love for its author. . . . It provides useful dates and background information for Duryea's many roles and charts a clear career trajectory. William Luhr, author of *Film Noir*, professor of English and film at Saint Peter's University, and co-chair of the faculty-level Columbia University Seminar on Cinema and Interdisciplinary Interpretation Dan Duryea may be a forgotten actor, but he still looms large: vivid and vastly entertaining for fans of films noir and westerns. Few actors created such a distinctive niche: smooth, snaky villain with the lilting voice and lethal backhand. Fans who have always cherished the squirmy menace he exuded can now finally appreciate the man himself, which will make them marvel even more at the persona he perfected. Eddie Muller, author most recently of *The Art of Noir: The Posters and Graphics from the Classic Era of Film Noir* and coauthor of *Tab Hunter Confidential: The Making of a Movie Star* About the Author Mike Peros, New York, New York, teaches English at Bishop Loughlin High School, including courses on mystery and horror, as well as literature and film. He also reviews films for NoHoartsdistrict.com.