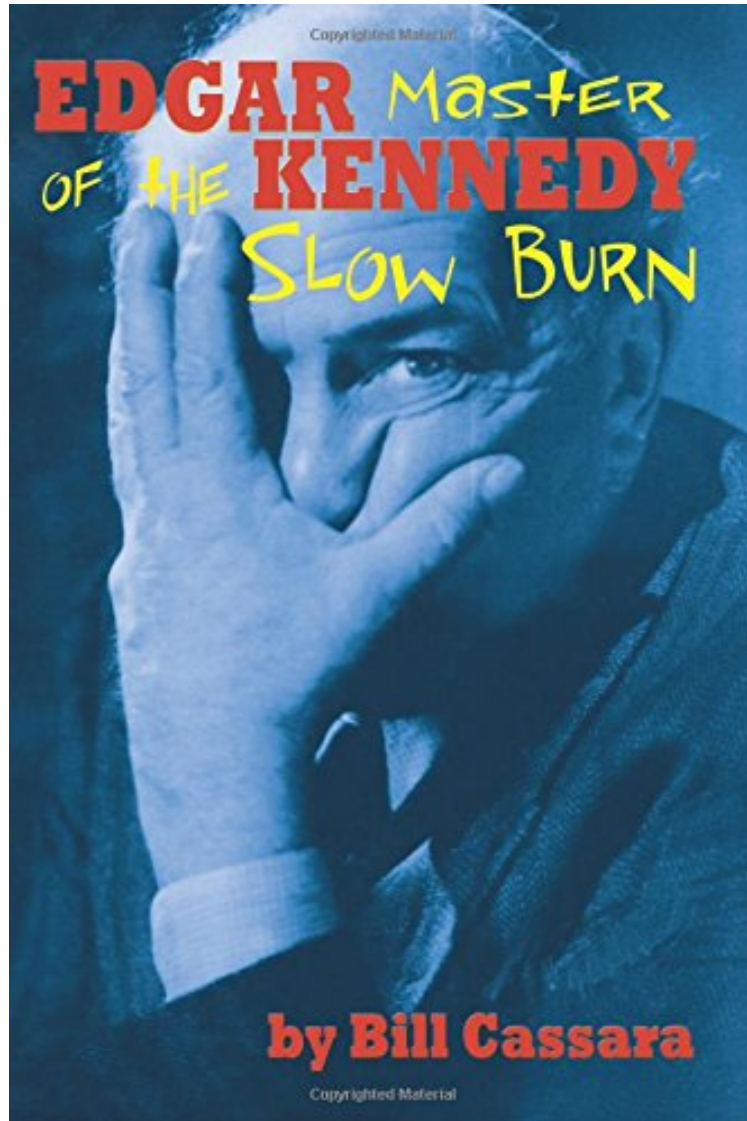


(Download pdf ebook) Edgar Kennedy: Master of the Slow Burn

Edgar Kennedy: Master of the Slow Burn

Bill Cassara

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Bill Cassara : Edgar Kennedy: Master of the Slow Burn before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Edgar Kennedy: Master of the Slow Burn:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The " Common Man" gets a Biography that would not " Burn him up"By John Silence is GoldenWhen I was a kid, I first encountered Edgar Kennedy from the Hal Roach Our Gang /Little Rascals comedies shown every afternoon after school. Later I caught his RKO two reelers on WNEW, channel 5, New York at 2-3 am on its early morning "reel camp". Then in the classic routines with Chico and Harpo Marx in "Duck Soup" and so on. His exasperation was explained to me by my grandfather simply as "that's slow burn

Kennedy" and I found out that he also watched the RKO 2 reels - fondly as he usually watched very little TV. As I became a film enthusiast, I always had a "soft spot" and regard for "Kennedy the Cop". Edgar Kennedy was a long serving character actor in the silent and sound era's and against all odds at the lowest point of the great depression in 1932 graduated to his own highly successful short comedy series at RKO that lasted for 16 + years until his untimely death in 1948. Acting and directing at the old Sennett Studio and later at the Hal Roach studio with Laurel and Hardy and Charlie Chase gave him ample opportunities to hone his comedic and directorial skills and this outstanding book chronicles his struggles and perseverance as a non glamorous "ordinary man" to find a place against great odds securing a unique niche / persona in a 35 + year Hollywood career. In an era when hundreds of actors and actresses were vying for the public's attention and when Hollywood studio system stressed stars and glamour it was the numerous character actors supporting the stars in hundreds of films - Edna Mae Oliver, Frank McHugh, Alan Hale, Eric Blore, Hattie McDaniel, Beulah Bondi, Nat Pendleton, Gail Patrick, Edward Brophy, Florence Bates, Eve Arden AND Edgar Kennedy who with the scores of other character actors as much as the stars that they supported are the reason why we watch and treasure these movies as much today as audiences did of 66 + years ago. Edgar Kennedy was as well recognized for his "slow burn" persona in the 1930s and 40s as Fred Astaire was for dancing and Errol Flynn for swashbuckling. Never a major star he nevertheless was a viable, respected, much in demand character actor. The author also shows Edgar as a good natured family man who like the former boxer he was - always moved forward despite the hard knocks that often came his way. I was pleasantly surprised that a biography like this could be published and find an audience in our "5 minutes of fame" era when a celebrity is "here today" and "forgotten tomorrow" !!. This book is entertaining, well researched, has great pictures and the author obviously has a fondness for his subject. I strongly recommend this book to all film and film comedy buffs and give it 4 1/2 stars - Recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. No slow burn in this great bio! By Lewis Sofman Edgar Kennedy was a notable persona in the comedy film genre for many years. Bill Cassara does a great job in researching and writing about a solid comedy character actor whose presence in every film added much to the overall effort. Kennedy deserved this biography and so did we! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great To Find Out More About This Fine Comedian By J. Shawn Sullivan Edgar Kennedy is unjustly forgotten by many. He was an original, and he gave the world pure laughter for many years. Bill Cassara has thoroughly researched Kennedy's life and written a fine tribute of a biography. If you've ever wondered about the background and life of the man famous for the "Slow Burn", by all means pick up a copy of this book.

EDGAR KENNEDY appeared in over 400 Hollywood films spanning four decades. An original Keystone Kop for Mack Sennett, he went on to support such film luminaries as Charlie Chaplin, Laurel Hardy, the Marx Bros. John Wayne, Lucille Ball and Doris Day. Billed as "The Average Man," Edgar starred in his own short comedy series at RKO for 17 years. Bill Cassara was born and raised in San Jose, California where his love for the movies began while attending weekly programs at the Garden Theatre, a neighborhood cinema. A graduate of San Jose State University, Cassara dedicated himself to a career in law enforcement. This 25-year veteran of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office currently holds the rank of Sergeant and is assigned to patrol on the Monterey peninsula. In 1984, Cassara founded "The Midnight Patrol" chapter for the Sons of the Desert, the Laurel and Hardy appreciation society. He has also been a board member for the Monterey County Arts Habitat and the Monterey County Film Commission. Cassara chaired film events featuring appearances by Doris Day and Clint Eastwood. Cassara also hosted the Edgar Kennedy Celebration in Monterey in 1997.