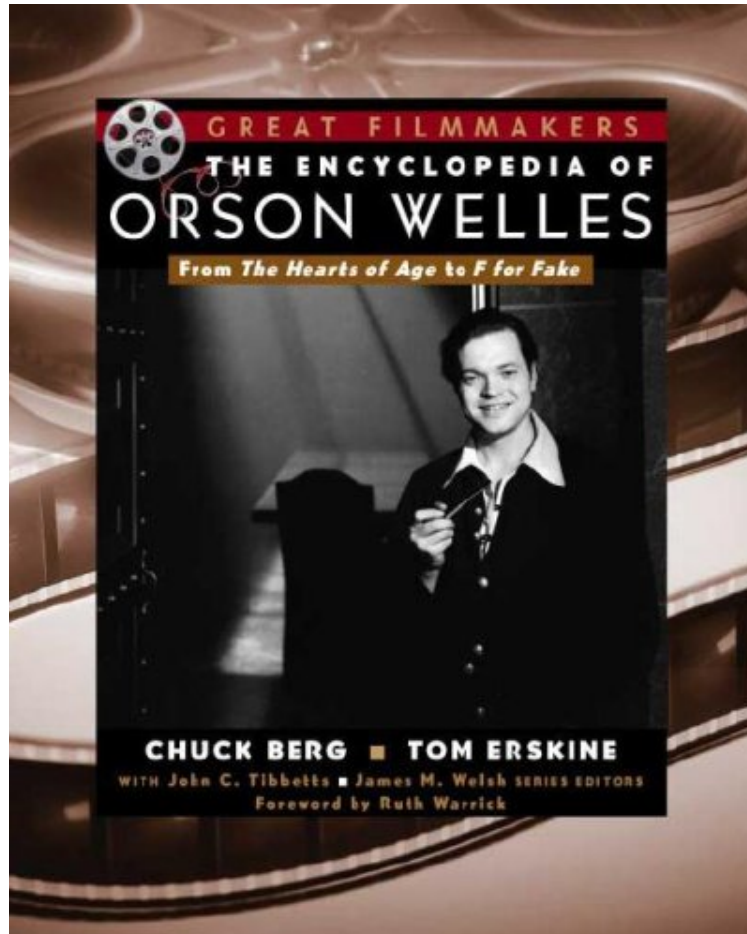


Encyclopedia of Orson Welles (Great Filmmakers)

Chuck Berg, Thomas L. Erskine

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Chuck Berg, Thomas L. Erskine : Encyclopedia of Orson Welles (Great Filmmakers) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Orson Welles (Great Filmmakers):

"Citizen Kane" is often considered the greatest masterpiece of the cinema, hailed for its story, dramatic technique, and filmmaking innovations. The film should have launched its director, Orson Welles, to superstar heights, instead, this singular filmmaker spent his career facing constant financial and organizational struggles. Yet despite these obstacles, Welles managed to produce two other successful films - "The Magnificent Ambersons" and "Touch of Evil". This encyclopaedia follows Welles' career from his early days as a radio performer with "Mercury Theater on the Air" to his rise and prolonged decline in Hollywood. More than 300 entries cover all aspects of Welles' life and career, including all of his film projects - even those never realized - major performers in his films; key crew members;

sources of inspiration; music and composers; and television, stage, and radio appearances.

From Booklist This is the third and final entry on a single director in Facts On File's Great Filmmakers series. Welles created what many consider the finest film of all time, *Citizen Kane*. Readers of the book's entry on it may be surprised to learn that it was his first feature film, made when he was only 26! He was also responsible for that "most notorious of broadcasts" in 1938, the radio play of H. G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*. And did you know that he wrote acclaimed high-school textbooks on Shakespeare? Welles amassed many other directorial, acting, and writing credits in his lengthy career. Entries are arranged alphabetically, covering produced and unproduced films, plays, broadcasts, and scripts (*Compulsion*, *The Magnificent Ambersons*, *Time Runs*); people (John Barrymore, Rita Hayworth, Steven Spielberg); and topical entries (*Shakespeare by Welles*, "Rosebud"). Some of the text is highly detailed: *Macbeth* has more than seven pages, with casting and shooting background, scene-by-scene description and analysis, and critical response. The eight contributors write in a lively and engaging style, and entries are filled with fascinating facts. Black-and-white photos of key figures and films accompany many articles. A bibliography and index are included. The only thing readers may look for in vain is a filmography, or better yet, a list in time-line format detailing Welles' varied accomplishments in chronological order, perhaps divided by role as actor, director, etc. Most public and academic libraries will want to add this to the reference or circulating collection. RBBCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Chuck Berg is a professor of film and is the Associate Chair of the Department of Theater and Film at the University of Kansas. He has written several books as well as hundreds of articles and reviews for music and film periodicals. He lives in Lawrence, KS. Tom Erskine is the founding editor of *Literature/Film Quarterly* and has published three books on literature and film. He lives in Maryland.