

hollywood babylon kenneth anger

Hollywood Babylon Kenneth Anger: Unveiling the Dark Secrets of Tinseltown

hollywood babylon kenneth anger is a phrase that immediately conjures images of scandal, mystery, and the shadowy underbelly of classic Hollywood. Kenneth Anger, the enigmatic filmmaker and author, is best known for his controversial book **Hollywood Babylon**, a tome that peeled back the glittering facade of the film industry to reveal a world rife with scandal, intrigue, and outrageous stories. But who was Kenneth Anger, and why does **Hollywood Babylon** remain such a culturally significant—and contentious—work decades after its publication? Let's dive deep into the fascinating intersection of Kenneth Anger's life and his infamous exposé on Hollywood's hidden side.

The Man Behind the Myth: Kenneth Anger

Kenneth Anger is far more than just the author of **Hollywood Babylon**. Born in 1927, Anger was a pioneering experimental filmmaker, known for his avant-garde films that blended occult symbolism, surreal imagery, and a fascination with celebrity culture. His work is often cited as a major influence on the counterculture movements of the 1960s and beyond, as well as on filmmakers like David Lynch and John Waters.

Anger's interest in Hollywood's glamorous yet secretive world was both personal and artistic. He was immersed in the culture of Hollywood from a young age, and his films often explored themes of fame, power, and the occult. His fascination with the darker side of fame naturally extended to his written work, culminating in **Hollywood Babylon**.

The Birth of Hollywood Babylon

Published initially in 1965, **Hollywood Babylon** is a sensationalist collection of stories and photographs that expose the lurid and scandalous history of early Hollywood stars. The book dives into tales of drug abuse, sexual intrigue, mysterious deaths, and bizarre personal habits of the celebrities who defined the Golden Age of American cinema.

What makes **Hollywood Babylon** so captivating is its unapologetic approach. Kenneth Anger did not shy away from the grotesque or the taboo; instead, he embraced the weird and the wonderful, painting a picture of Hollywood that was as much about myth and legend as it was about fact. This approach helped cement the book's status as a cult classic, though it also sparked controversy for its sometimes unverified or exaggerated content.

Hollywood Babylon Kenneth Anger: The Impact

on Pop Culture

Hollywood Babylon changed the way people viewed Hollywood stars. No longer were they just glamorous icons on the silver screen; Kenneth Anger's stories revealed them as flawed, complex human beings with dark secrets. This shift influenced both popular culture and the way celebrity scandals were covered by the media.

Influence on Celebrity Journalism

Before **Hollywood Babylon**, Hollywood gossip was often polite and sanitized. Anger's book ushered in a new era of sensationalist celebrity journalism that thrives today in tabloids and online media. His work paved the way for revelations about A-list stars' private lives, setting a precedent for the kind of intimate and sometimes invasive celebrity coverage that is common now.

Aesthetic and Artistic Legacy

Kenneth Anger's influence extends beyond his writing. His experimental films, such as **Scorpio Rising** and **Lucifer Rising**, imbued with occult themes and a fascination with pop culture, have inspired generations of filmmakers and musicians. The blend of dark Hollywood lore with mysticism and avant-garde art helped shape alternative perspectives on fame and media.

Exploring the Controversies Around Hollywood Babylon

Despite its cult status, **Hollywood Babylon** has been criticized for inaccuracies and sensationalism. Some critics accuse Kenneth Anger of prioritizing shock value over historical accuracy, and some families of the celebrities featured have denounced the book for its invasion of privacy.

Fact vs. Fiction

One of the major debates surrounding **Hollywood Babylon** is the reliability of its content. Many stories have been challenged by historians and biographers, leading to questions about how much of Anger's work is grounded in fact and how much is embellished or mythologized.

This tension between fact and fiction, however, is part of what makes the book so intriguing. It functions as a kind of dark folklore about Hollywood, blending truth with rumor to create a narrative that is as entertaining as it is unsettling.

Ethical Considerations

Kenneth Anger's decision to publish intimate and often scandalous details about real people raises questions about ethics and respect for privacy. While some argue that **Hollywood Babylon** exposed important truths about the dangers of fame and the cost of celebrity, others feel it exploited personal tragedies for sensationalist purposes.

The Lasting Appeal of Hollywood Babylon Kenneth Anger

What continues to make **Hollywood Babylon** relevant decades after its release? Part of the answer lies in the enduring fascination with Hollywood itself—a place where fantasy and reality intermingle, and where the public's hunger for celebrity stories shows no sign of waning.

Why Readers Are Drawn to Dark Hollywood Stories

People have always been intrigued by the idea that beneath the polished exterior of fame lies a turbulent world. **Hollywood Babylon** taps into this curiosity by offering an unvarnished glimpse into lives that seem larger than life but are often tragic or bizarre.

This allure of scandal and mystery is a powerful force in popular culture. It satisfies a voyeuristic desire to peek behind the curtain and understand the true cost of glamour.

Lessons from Kenneth Anger's Work

Beyond the gossip and sensationalism, Kenneth Anger's work encourages a deeper reflection on fame, power, and the human condition. It reminds us that the icons we admire are complex individuals shaped by circumstances, choices, and sometimes, misfortune.

For modern filmmakers, artists, and writers, Anger's blend of personal vision and cultural critique serves as inspiration to challenge conventional narratives and explore the hidden layers of society and history.

Where to Find Hollywood Babylon Today

If you're interested in diving into Kenneth Anger's **Hollywood Babylon**, various editions are available, including updated versions that address some of the original's controversies. It remains a fascinating, if provocative, read for anyone curious about the myths and realities of Hollywood's golden era.

In addition to the book, exploring Kenneth Anger's filmography offers a complementary perspective on his artistic vision and his unique way of interpreting fame and infamy.

Kenneth Anger's *Hollywood Babylon* remains a seminal work that continues to captivate and confound readers. Whether approached as a historical document, a piece of pop culture folklore, or a cautionary tale about celebrity obsession, it offers a glimpse into the darker, more mysterious corners of Hollywood's past that mainstream accounts often overlook. This blend of art, scandal, and storytelling keeps the legend of Hollywood Babylon very much alive.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Hollywood Babylon' by Kenneth Anger?

'Hollywood Babylon' is a controversial book by Kenneth Anger that exposes scandals, rumors, and hidden stories about Hollywood celebrities from the silent film era to the 1950s.

When was 'Hollywood Babylon' first published?

'Hollywood Babylon' was first published in 1965.

Who is Kenneth Anger?

Kenneth Anger is an American underground experimental filmmaker and author, known for his influential works in avant-garde cinema and for writing 'Hollywood Babylon'.

Why is 'Hollywood Babylon' considered controversial?

The book is considered controversial because it contains sensational and often scandalous stories about celebrities, some of which are rumored or unverified, leading to debates over accuracy and ethics.

What kind of content does 'Hollywood Babylon' cover?

'Hollywood Babylon' covers gossip, scandals, deaths, and bizarre incidents involving Hollywood stars, often revealing dark and hidden aspects of their lives.

Has 'Hollywood Babylon' faced any censorship or bans?

Yes, due to its explicit content and allegations, 'Hollywood Babylon' faced bans and censorship in some countries and was often challenged by Hollywood insiders.

How has Kenneth Anger's background influenced 'Hollywood Babylon'?

Kenneth Anger's background in experimental film and fascination with occult and Hollywood mythology influenced the book's sensational and mysterious tone.

Are the stories in 'Hollywood Babylon' true?

Many stories in 'Hollywood Babylon' are based on rumors and anecdotal evidence, and some have been disputed or debunked, so readers should approach the book critically.

What impact did 'Hollywood Babylon' have on Hollywood culture?

'Hollywood Babylon' contributed to the fascination with celebrity scandals and the darker side of fame, influencing how Hollywood's history is viewed and discussed.

Is 'Hollywood Babylon' still in print and relevant today?

Yes, 'Hollywood Babylon' remains in print and continues to be referenced for its sensational tales about early Hollywood, although modern readers often consider its content with skepticism.

Additional Resources

Hollywood Babylon Kenneth Anger: A Deep Dive into Controversy and Cinematic Legacy

hollywood babylon kenneth anger stands as a phrase that conjures images of scandal, underground cinema, and the dark underbelly of Hollywood's golden age. Kenneth Anger, an avant-garde filmmaker and author, is perhaps best known for his provocative book "Hollywood Babylon," a tell-all exposé that peeled back the glitz and glamour of Tinseltown to reveal sordid tales of stars and scandals. This article explores the cultural impact of Kenneth Anger's work, the significance of "Hollywood Babylon," and how Anger's unique cinematic vision has influenced both film and popular culture.

Understanding Kenneth Anger and Hollywood Babylon

Kenneth Anger is a figure who defies simple categorization. Born in 1927, Anger grew up fascinated by Hollywood's mystique and the occult, elements that would permeate his artistic endeavors. His book "Hollywood Babylon," originally published in the 1950s, is notorious for its lurid gossip and shocking revelations about early Hollywood celebrities. The book was banned in several countries due to its explicit content and contentious accusations, yet it simultaneously cemented Anger's reputation as a fearless expositor of celebrity culture's hidden side.

"Hollywood Babylon" is not merely a gossip compendium; it serves as a cultural document that challenges the sanitized narratives often presented by Hollywood studios. Anger's work digs into scandals involving stars like Clara Bow, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, and Marilyn Monroe, blending historical fact with sensational storytelling. The book's influence extends beyond literature into film and media studies, where it is frequently cited as a counter-narrative to mainstream Hollywood histories.

The Controversies Surrounding Hollywood Babylon

One cannot discuss Hollywood Babylon by Kenneth Anger without addressing the controversies that envelop the book and its author. Critics argue that Anger's accounts are sometimes exaggerated or based on questionable sources, raising ethical questions about privacy and defamation. The book's graphic depictions of drug abuse, sexuality, and death shocked readers and sparked debates about the responsibility of authors in portraying real individuals.

Despite these criticisms, or perhaps because of them, "Hollywood Babylon" achieved cult status. It tapped into a public fascination with celebrity downfall and the dichotomy between public personas and private realities. Kenneth Anger's fearless approach made him a pioneer of what might be called "celebrity exposé" culture, a precursor to the tabloid journalism and reality TV that dominate today's media landscape.

Kenneth Anger's Influence on Avant-Garde Cinema

Beyond authorship, Kenneth Anger's contributions to film are equally significant. As a filmmaker, Anger is known for his experimental shorts such as "Scorpio Rising" (1963) and "Invocation of My Demon Brother" (1969), which blend symbolism, occult themes, and pop culture references. His cinematic style is characterized by non-linear narratives, psychedelic visuals, and a soundtrack integration that was innovative for its time.

Anger's films often explore taboo topics and challenge conventional storytelling, positioning him as a key figure in the avant-garde and underground film movements. His work has inspired a wide range of artists and filmmakers, from David Lynch to Jim Jarmusch, who admire his boldness and originality.

Key Features of Kenneth Anger's Filmography

- **Symbolism and Mythology:** Anger frequently incorporates occult symbolism and mythic archetypes, inviting viewers to interpret his films on multiple levels.
- **Soundtrack Innovation:** His use of popular music as a narrative device was pioneering, particularly notable in "Scorpio Rising."

- **Subversive Themes:** Anger's films confront issues of sexuality, rebellion, and identity in ways that challenged the norms of the 1950s and 60s.
- **Short Film Format:** Working primarily with short films, Anger maximized impact through concise, visually rich storytelling.

The Legacy of Hollywood Babylon Kenneth Anger

The legacy of "hollywood babylon kenneth anger" is multifaceted. On one hand, the book remains a controversial yet influential artifact that exposes the darker side of celebrity culture. On the other, Anger's films continue to be studied and celebrated for their artistic daring and cultural commentary.

Anger's blending of myth, scandal, and visual experimentation created a template for future generations of artists interested in exploring the intersections of fame, identity, and power. While some may criticize his methods or question the accuracy of "Hollywood Babylon," there is no denying that Kenneth Anger shaped the way we look at Hollywood's history and its cultural mythology.

Comparisons with Other Hollywood Exposés

Compared to other celebrity tell-alls and exposés, "Hollywood Babylon" is distinctive for its unapologetic sensationalism and artistic flair. Unlike journalistic works grounded strictly in fact, Anger's book borders on a mythopoetic narrative, blending real events with a gothic sensibility. This places it apart from more recent biographies or documentaries that aim for balanced portrayals.

In contrast, contemporary exposés tend to focus on systemic issues like industry abuse or exploitation, reflecting changing societal values. Anger's work, while groundbreaking, is more focused on individual scandal and shock value, reflecting the tabloid culture of its era.

Modern Relevance and Cultural Impact

Today, "hollywood babylon kenneth anger" resonates differently as society reexamines celebrity culture through the lenses of ethics, privacy, and media responsibility. Anger's fearless uncovering of Hollywood's underworld challenges readers to question the narratives presented by the entertainment industry. His films, meanwhile, remain relevant for their artistic innovation and boundary-pushing content.

The ongoing interest in cult cinema and underground art ensures that Kenneth Anger's influence will persist. His work invites contemporary audiences and creators to explore the complex interplay between image and reality, fame and infamy, art and exploitation.

In sum, Kenneth Anger's "Hollywood Babylon" is more than a scandal sheet; it is a provocative cultural artifact that continues to inspire debate, artistic innovation, and critical reflection on Hollywood's enduring myths and realities.

Hollywood Babylon Kenneth Anger

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: Kenneth Anger's Hollywood Babylon II Kenneth Anger, 1985

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hollywood babylon kenneth anger: Anger Bill Landis, 1995 Known worldwide for his bestselling Hollywood Babylon books, Kenneth Anger is an underground filmmaker whose tremendous influence has been acknowledged by directors as diverse as Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, and Dennis Hopper. As the father and most highly regarded member of American cinema's avant-garde, Anger made three films now considered masterpieces: *Fireworks*, *Scorpio Rising*, and *Lucifer Rising*. More than forty years later his aesthetic ripple is still being felt in contemporary mediums such as rock videos. Beginning with Anger's life as a child actor in Hollywood (he was featured in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Mickey Rooney), Bill Landis's biography takes the reader on a wild journey from the beginning of the underground film movement in the United States and Europe through the equally underground gay world of the '40s and '50s to the '60s in London and San Francisco, when Anger was at his peak of fame, and up to the present.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: Hollywood Babylon I Kenneth Anger, 1984

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: Embattled Dreams Kevin Starr, 2002 This volume deals with the years of World War II and after. In the 1940s California changed from a regional centre into the dominant economic, social and cultural force it has been in America ever since.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: The Most Typical Avant-Garde David James, 2005-05-30 Los Angeles has nourished a dazzling array of independent cinemas: avant-garde and art cinema, ethnic and industrial films, pornography, documentaries, and many other far-flung corners of film culture. This glorious panoramic history of film production outside the commercial studio system reconfigures Los Angeles, rather than New York, as the true center of avant-garde cinema in the United States. As he brilliantly delineates the cultural perimeter of the film business from the earliest days of cinema to the contemporary scene, David James argues that avant-garde and minority filmmaking in Los Angeles has in fact been the prototypical attempt to create emancipatory and progressive culture. Drawing from urban history and geography, local news reporting, and a wide range of film criticism, James gives astute analyzes of scores of films—many of which are to found only in archives. He also looks at some of the most innovative moments in Hollywood, revealing the full extent of the cross-fertilization that occurred between the studio system and films created outside it. Throughout, he demonstrates that Los Angeles has been in the aesthetic and social vanguard in all cinematic periods—from the Socialist cinemas of the early teens and 1930s; to the personal cinemas of psychic self-investigation in the 1940s; to attempts in the 1960s to revitalize the industry with the counterculture's utopian visions; and to the 1970s, when African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, women, gays, and lesbians worked to create cinemas of their own. James

takes us up to the 1990s and beyond to explore new forms of art cinema that are now transforming the representation of Southern California's geography.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: *Confessions of an Illuminati, VOLUME II* Leo Lyon Zagami, 2017-11-11 After his master thesis of the secret societies network as outlined in Volume I, the Confessions of an Illuminati narrative of Leo Lyon Zagami is projected to the reality of today, including the occult maneuvers behind the New World Order. We need to wake up beyond our current belief systems, because the controllers of the New World Order are moving fast using the Prophecies to their advantage to implement their evil plan by 2020, when World War III will finally break loose. The author demonstrates that the hierarchy of power emanating from Rome and Jerusalem, with the Jesuits and the Zionist's united by a secret pact since the Second Vatican Council, are in cahoots working towards the creation of a world government. There is also China playing a new role in the NWO with the far reaching tentacles of Chinese Freemasonry manipulating economic Hit Men and disinformation artists, while Russia is building their Christian orthodox alliance to apparently oppose the Western antichrist. In this unprecedented scenario, we also have the involvement of the big media moguls like Ted Turner and Silvio Berlusconi and their role in manipulating perceptions. The author discusses further aspects of the Satanic infiltration of Freemasonry, pointing out on the generational aspect the many ways of defending yourself psychically against black magicians, but also against the many sects operating in the Illuminati Network.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: *Washington Babylon* Alexander Cockburn, Ken Silverstein, 1996-04-17 Paying open tribute to the tone and illustrative style of Kenneth Anger's classic Hollywood Babylon, the authors provide, in words and pictures, the scoop on the nefarious goings on in the capital city, the out of town arrivistes in the White House and on Capitol Hill, and the corrupt stew of permanent officials and hangers-on which surround them.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: *Haunted States* Miranda Corcoran, 2024-10-08 A fusion of travel literature and cultural criticism investigating the dark history of the US and exploring how past horrors - from witch trials to slavery and genocide - continue to haunt the national consciousness. Haunted States is a unique guidebook that explores the dark, often horrifying, history of the US. Based on the author's journey across the United States in summer 2022, it explores locations connected to Gothic fiction and film, tracking the relationship between the American landscapes and the various forms of fictional horror the nation has produced over the centuries. Part cultural history and part travelogue, Haunted States traces how the American Gothic draws inspiration from the natural and built environments, with the astounding geographical variation of the landscape influencing the distinctive forms of horror produced across its many diverse regions. The book also investigates how the horrors of the American Gothic have their roots in the nation's dark history of colonialism, slavery, violence and oppression - past sins that continue to haunt the national consciousness to this day. Taking horror (in literature, film and the visual arts) as its starting point, Haunted States investigates the landscapes, places and cultures that produced it. Incorporating first-person travel narrative, historical context and supplementary interviews, Haunted States journeys across the USA to learn about its eclectic, regional forms of horror.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: *Rudolph Valentino* Natacha Rambova, 2009-12 In 1926 Silent Film Icon, Rudolph Valentino, died unexpectedly at the age of 31. That same year, he had finalized a bitter divorce from his wife of four years, Natacha Rambova. Valentino had been madly in love with the gorgeous and very talented designer, yet they had been unable to make their marriage work. Since their first marriage in 1922, the public had been critical of Rambova, blaming her for any mistakes in Valentino's career or life. As Valentino laid on his deathbed in New York, Rambova was in Paris. The two exchanged telegrams to the very end, with both sides believing they would soon reunite and a reconciliation had taken place. Upon hearing the news of his death, Rambova was so distraught she locked herself in her room for three days. With many estate issues to fulfill, Valentino's manager George Ullman took the reigns. To help keep Valentino's name in the spotlight, Ullman wrote a book detailing his time with the gifted actor. Ullman and Rambova had never gotten

along, fighting for control of Valentino's career. Feeling she had been unfairly portrayed not only by Ullman, but also by the press, Rambova decided to write her own book. First published in the UK in 1927, *Rudy: An Intimate Portrait by His Wife*, presented Rambova's side of the story, providing many amusing stories and anecdotes about her time with Valentino. Both Valentino and Rambova had been firm believers in the practice of Spiritualism. Rambova decided to utilize her beliefs for this book, adding a section titled *Revelations*, consisting of things supposedly told to her by Valentino's soul, through seances. Rambova felt the need to publish these 'messages', believing these were things his soul wished to communicate with the world. However things soon got out of hand, with boisterous fans and attention seekers bombarding the legacy of Rudolph Valentino with their own claims. Rambova would remain firm in her beliefs, eventually becoming a renowned Egyptologist. After the publication of this book, she never spoke of her time with Valentino again. *Rudolph Valentino: An Intimate Portrait* by his wife is proudly reprinted by The Rudolph Valentino Society for the first time in over 80 years, under a new title, *Rudolph Valentino: A Wife's Memories of an Icon*. In addition to the original text there is a new section containing biographies, filmographies, bibliographies, notes, and new forwards. This section also contains groundbreaking biographies on screenwriter and film executive June Mathis; as well as silent film vamp Nita Naldi. 70% of proceeds from this book benefit The Rudolph Valentino Society and Film Festival.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: Strictly Dynamite Eve Golden, 2023-09-19 Before Salma Hayek, Eva Longoria, and Penelope Cruz, there was Lupe Velez—one of the first Latin-American stars to sweep past the xenophobia of old Hollywood and pave the way for future icons from around the world. Her career began in the silent era, when her beauty was enough to make it onto the silver screen, but with the rise of talkies, Velez could no longer hope to hide her Mexican accent. Yet Velez proved to be a talented dramatic and comedic actress (and singer) and was much more versatile than Greta Garbo, Katharine Hepburn, Gloria Swanson, and other legends of the time. Velez starred in such films as *Hot Pepper* (1933), *Strictly Dynamite* (1934), and *Hollywood Party* (1934), and her popularity peaked in the 1940s after she appeared as Carmelita Fuentes in eight Mexican Spitfire films, a series created to capitalize on Velez's reputed fiery personality. The media emphasized the Mexican Spitfire persona, and by many accounts, Velez's private life was as colorful as the characters she portrayed on-screen. Fan magazines mythologized her mysterious childhood in Mexico, while mainstream publications obsessed over the drama of her romances with Gary Cooper, Erich Maria Remarque, and John Gilbert, along with her stormy marriage to Johnny Weissmuller. In 1944, a pregnant and unmarried Velez died of an intentional drug overdose. Her tumultuous life and the circumstances surrounding her early death have been the subject of speculation and controversy. In *Strictly Dynamite: The Sensational Life of Lupe Velez*, author Eve Golden uses extensive research to separate fact from fiction and offer a thorough and riveting examination of the real woman beneath the gossip columns' caricature. Through astute analysis of the actress's filmography and interviews, Golden illuminates the path Velez blazed through Hollywood. Her success was unexpected and extraordinary at a time when a distinctive accent was an obstacle, and yet very few books have focused entirely on Velez's life and career. Written with evenhandedness, humor, and empathy, this biography finally gives the remarkable Mexican actress the unique and nuanced portrait she deserves.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: Suicide in the Entertainment Industry David K. Frasier, 2015-09-11 This work covers 840 intentional suicide cases initially reported in *Daily Variety* (the entertainment industry's trade journal), but also drawing attention from mainstream news media. These cases are taken from the ranks of vaudeville, film, theatre, dance, music, literature (writers with direct connections to film), and other allied fields in the entertainment industry from 1905 through 2000. Accidentally self-inflicted deaths are omitted, except for a few controversial cases. It includes the suicides of well-known personalities such as actress Peg Entwistle, who is the only person to ever commit suicide by jumping from the top of the Hollywood Sign, Marilyn Monroe and Dorothy Dandridge, who are believed to have overdosed on drugs, and Richard Farnsworth and Brian Keith, who shot themselves to end the misery of terminal cancer. Also mentioned, but in less

detail, are the suicides of unknown and lesser-known members of the entertainment industry. Arranged alphabetically, each entry covers the person's personal and professional background, method of suicide, and, in some instances, includes actual statements taken from the suicide note.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: *Stars in My Eyes* Max Bygraves, 2003 Singer/entertainer Max Bygraves shares personal memories of a showbiz life and the stars he has worked with, including Jack Benny, Judy Garland, Laurence Olivier and Peter Sellers.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: *Hollywood's Others* Katherine Fusco, 2025-09-02 We tend to think about movie stars as either glamorous or relatable. But in the 1920s and 1930s, when the Hollywood star system was taking shape, a number of unusual stars appeared on the silver screen, representing groups from which the American mainstream typically sought to avert its eyes. What did it mean for a white entertainment columnist to empathize with an ambiguously gendered Black child star? Or for boys to idolize Lon Chaney, famous for portraying characters with disabilities? *Hollywood's Others* explores the affective ties between white, non-disabled audiences and the fascinatingly different stars with whom they identified—but only up to a point. Katherine Fusco argues that stardom in this era at once offered ways for viewers to connect across group boundaries while also policing the limits of empathy. Examining fan magazines alongside film performances, she traces the intense audience attachment to atypical celebrities and the ways the film industry sought to manage it. Fusco considers Shirley Temple's career in light of child labor laws and changing notions of childhood; shows how white viewers responded to Black music in depictions of the antebellum South; and analyzes the gender politics of conspiracy theories around celebrity suicides. Shedding light on marginalized stardoms and the anxieties they provoked, *Hollywood's Others* challenges common notions about film's capacity to build empathy.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: *Drug Wars* Curtis Marez, 2004 Inaugurated in 1984, America's War on Drugs is just the most recent skirmish in a standoff between global drug trafficking and state power. From Britain's nineteenth-century Opium Wars in China to the activities of Colombia's drug cartels and their suppression by U.S.-backed military forces today, conflicts over narcotics have justified imperial expansion, global capitalism, and state violence, even as they have also fueled the movement of goods and labor around the world. In *Drug Wars*, cultural critic Curtis Marez examines two hundred years of writings, graphic works, films, and music that both demonize and celebrate the commerce in cocaine, marijuana, and opium, providing a bold interdisciplinary exploration of drugs in the popular imagination. Ranging from the writings of Sigmund Freud to pro-drug lord Mexican popular music, gangsta rap, and Brian De Palma's 1983 epic *Scarface*, *Drug Wars* moves from the representations and realities of the Opium Wars to the long history of drug and immigration enforcement on the U.S.-Mexican border, and to cocaine use and interdiction in South America, Middle Europe, and among American Indians. Throughout Marez juxtaposes official drug policy and propaganda with subversive images that challenge and sometimes even taunt government and legal efforts. As Marez shows, despite the state's best efforts to use the media to obscure the hypocrisies and failures of its drug policies—be they lurid descriptions of Chinese opium dens in the English popular press or Nancy Reagan's Just Say No campaign—marginalized groups have consistently opposed the expansion of state power that drug traffic has historically supported. Curtis Marez is assistant professor of critical studies at the University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television.

hollywood babylon kenneth anger: *David Lynch* Greg Olson, 2008-09-29 For nearly 40 years, David Lynch's works have enthralled, mystified, and provoked viewers. Lynch's films delve into the subjective consciousness of his characters to reveal both the depraved darkness and luminous spirituality of human nature. From his experimental shorts of the 1960s to feature films like *Eraserhead*, *The Elephant Man*, *Blue Velvet*, *Mulholland Drive*, and *INLAND EMPIRE*, Lynch has pushed the boundaries of cinematic storytelling. In *David Lynch: Beautiful Dark*, author Greg Olson explores the surreal intricacies of the director's unique visual and visceral style not only in his full-length films but also his early forays into painting and short films, as well as his television landmark, *Twin Peaks*. This in-depth exploration is the first full-length work to analyze the intimate

symbiosis between Lynch's life experience and artistic expressions: from the small-town child to the teenage painter to the 60-year-old Internet and digital media experimenter. To fully delineate the director's life and art, Olson received unprecedented participation from Lynch, his parents, siblings, old school friends, romantic partners, children, and decades of professional colleagues, as well as on-set access to the director during the production of *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me*. Throughout this study, Olson provides thorough analyses of the filmmaker's works as Lynch conceived, crafted, and completed them. Consequently, *David Lynch: Beautiful Dark* is the definitive study of one of the most influential and idiosyncratic directors of the last four decades.

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