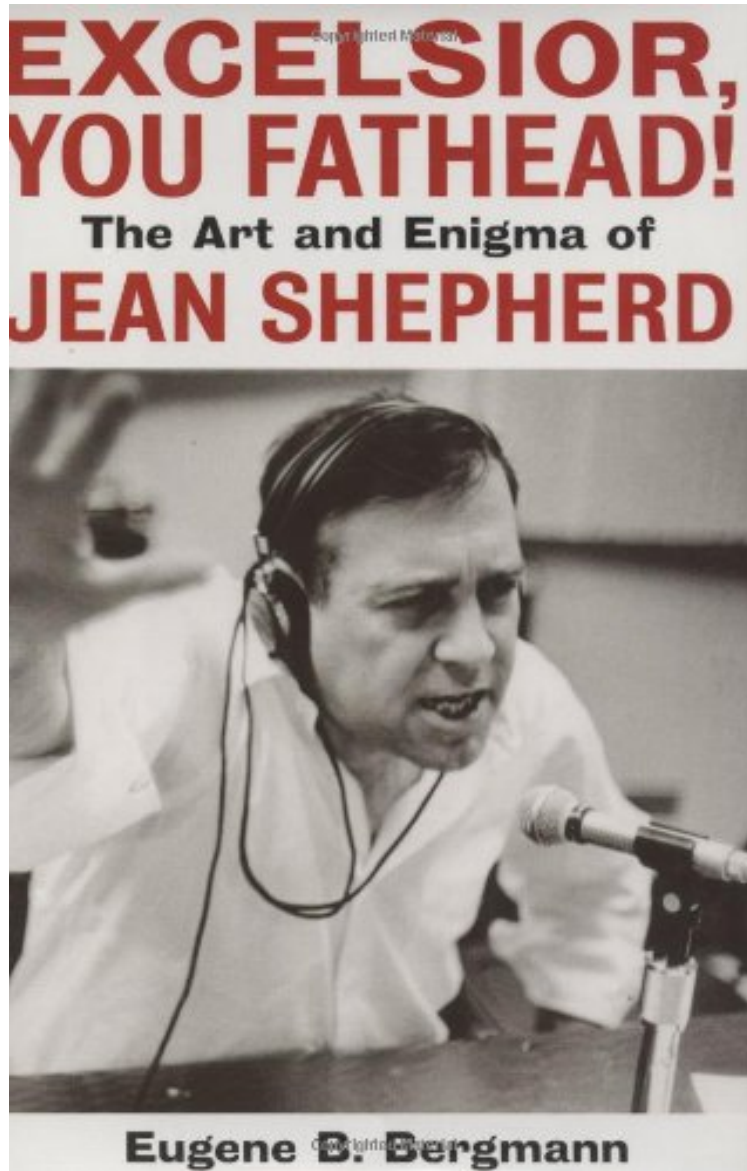


(Free pdf) Excelsior, You Fathead!: The Art and Enigma of Jean Shepherd

Excelsior, You Fathead!: The Art and Enigma of Jean Shepherd

Eugene B. Bergmann

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#596406 in Books Applause Books 2005-03-28 2004-11-01 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.40 x 6.00, 2.16 # File Name: 1557836000495 pages Excelsior, You Fathead! Applause Books Series Hardcover Written by Eugene B Bergmann Jean Shepherd (1921-1999), master humorist, is best known for his creation A Christmas Story, the popular movie about the child who wants a BB gun for Christmas and nearly shoots his eye out What else did Shepherd do? He is considered by many to be the Mark Twain and James Thurber of his day For many thousands of fans, for decades, Shep talked on the radio late at night, keeping them up way past their bedtimes He entertained without a script, improvising like a jazz musician, on any and every subject you can imagine | File size: 45.Mb

Eugene B. Bergmann : Excelsior, You Fathead!: The Art and Enigma of Jean Shepherd before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Excelsior, You Fathead!: The Art and Enigma of Jean Shepherd*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Better Look at Radio's Gregarious Hermit By K. Williams A revealing and detailed look at the mysterious Jean Shepherd, a man who talked about himself on the radio for hours each night without giving away too much. Bergmann's discoveries put a light on the voice in the night, revealing hidden aspects and dark sides of this broadcasting genius without taking anything away from his awesome achievements. The book separates fact from fiction (and Shepherd, though telling stories in the first person, doesn't seem to have expected that they'd be taken as gospel) and drops a number of unexpected biographical sidelights. Did you know that his father, "The Old Man" of *A CHRISTMAS STORY*, walked out on his family and went off to live with his secretary? Shepherd was grumpy, self-centered, and secretive, even as he poured the equivalent of several novels a week out on the ether for a dedicated audience that continues to listen to his broadcasts (thanks, Internet!) to this day. Reading this book may well be even better than knowing the man himself. Shepherd is probably best admired from a distance, but thanks to Bergmann, I understand a little bit more about who he really was. (What would Shepherd have made of the internet? Thanks to people making web pages, I was able to happen upon a Smokey Stover comic strip that could well be the origin of Shepherd's imaginary award of merit, the Brass Figlagee [sic], a tidbit that isn't in this book. If Bergmann does a new edition, he's welcome to this curious factoid.) 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed every page of it. By Filmfan I have been a great Jean Shepherd fan ever since the first time I heard him on the radio. I enjoyed the printed excerpts from some of Shepherd's radio shows that are in the book, that include some that I haven't heard before, and I especially enjoyed reading the comments from people who knew or worked with Shepherd. The author also includes excerpts from a number of Shepherd interviews - interviews of Shepherd by others, in which he comments about his own work. I'm just about finished reading the book, and I have enjoyed every page. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must for all Shep fans By Wesley G Brodsky Not quite a biography of Shep; but a chronological description of his work in radio, TV, and print. I found out a few things I did not know about him. (I will not spoil by telling you what.) A must for all Shep fans.

(Applause Books). Jean Shepherd (1921-1999), master humorist, is best known for his creation *A Christmas Story*, the popular movie about the child who wants a BB gun for Christmas and nearly shoots his eye out. What else did Shepherd do? He is considered by many to be the Mark Twain and James Thurber of his day. For many thousands of fans, for decades, "Shep" talked on the radio late at night, keeping them up way past their bedtimes. He entertained without a script, improvising like a jazz musician, on any and every subject you can imagine. He invented and remains the master of talk radio. Shepherd perpetrated one of the great literary hoaxes of all time, promoting a nonexistent book and author, and then brought the book into existence. He wrote 23 short stories for *Playboy*, four times winning their humor of the year award, and also interviewed *The Beatles* for the magazine. He authored several popular books of humor and satire, created several television series and acted in several plays. He is the model for the character played by Jason Robards in the play and movie *A Thousand Clowns*, as well as the inspiration for the Shel Silverstein song made famous by Johnny Cash, "A Boy Named Sue." Readers will learn the significance of innumerable Shepherd words and phrases, such as "Excelsior, you fathead," and observe his constant confrontations with the America he loved. They will get to know and understand this multitalented genius by peeking behind the wall he built for himself a wall to hide a different and less agreeable persona. Through interviews with his friends, co-workers and creative associates, such as musician David Amram, cartoonist and playwright Jules Feiffer, publisher and broadcaster Paul Krassner, and author Norman Mailer, the book explains a complex and unique genius of our time. "Shepherd pretty much invented talk radio ... What I got of him was a wonder at the world one man could create. I am as awed now by his achievement as I was then." Richard Corliss, *Time* magazine online

From *Publishers Weekly* Although the prolific, multitalented Shepherd (1921-1999) was an actor, author, emcee, recording artist and screenwriter (*A Christmas Story*), he's remembered by many as a late-night radio raconteur, who for 21 years on New York City's WOR-AM mixed heartland humor and hip, sardonic rants with memories of his Indiana youth. This prismatic portrait affirms Shepherd's position as one of the 20th century's great humorists. Railing against conformity, he forged a unique personal bond with his loyal listeners, who participated in his legendary literary prank by asking bookstores for the nonexistent novel *I, Libertine* (when Ian Ballantine had Shepherd and Theodore Sturgeon make the fake real, PW called it "the hoax that became a book"). Storyteller Shepherd's grand theme was life itself; Marshall McLuhan called Shepherd's broadcasts "a new kind of novel that he writes nightly." Minus guests and call-ins, it was talk radio, but Shepherd was the only voice, ad-libbing monologues like jazz riffs for a huge following via WOR's 50,000-watt reach. Novelist Bergmann (Rio as) interviewed 32 people who knew Shepherd or were influenced by him and listened to hundreds of broadcast tapes, inserting transcripts of Shepherd's own words into a

"biographical framework" of exhaustive research. 30 bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist These days, Jean Shepherd (1921-99), radio raconteur, social commentator, and author, is best known as the narrator of the perennially favorite holiday film A Christmas Story. But to his hardcore fans he was a pied piper of the radio waves--a nighttime voice that took them beyond their mundane realities by revealing how interesting the mundane can be. Shepherd broadcast almost nightly from 1955 to 1977 on WOR in New York City, gaining a cult following among the small community of insomniacs he dubbed the "night people." Although the author reveals himself as one of Shepherd's fans and this book as a labor of love--the title itself is a phrase Shepherd urged his fans to invoke--he makes no effort to hide his subject's faults. Bergmann points out that Shepherd's so-called nostalgia was actually antinostalgia: the painful memories of childhood and young adulthood are carefully masked by a fine midwestern sense of humor. A true storyteller and monologist--and a prickly genius. Frank Caso Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved The book is a masterful account of why Shepherd was known as a radio genius....It delves into what made Shepherd tick, his personal demons, and the sad last years of his life. For Shepherd fans, this is an indispensable book. --ASSOCIATED PRESS This is a very important book because it is one of the few thoughtfully researched volumes written about a radio star--ever....Get the book. --TALKERS MAGAZINE This prismatic portrait affirms Shepherd's position as one of the 20th century's great humorists. --Publishers Weekly