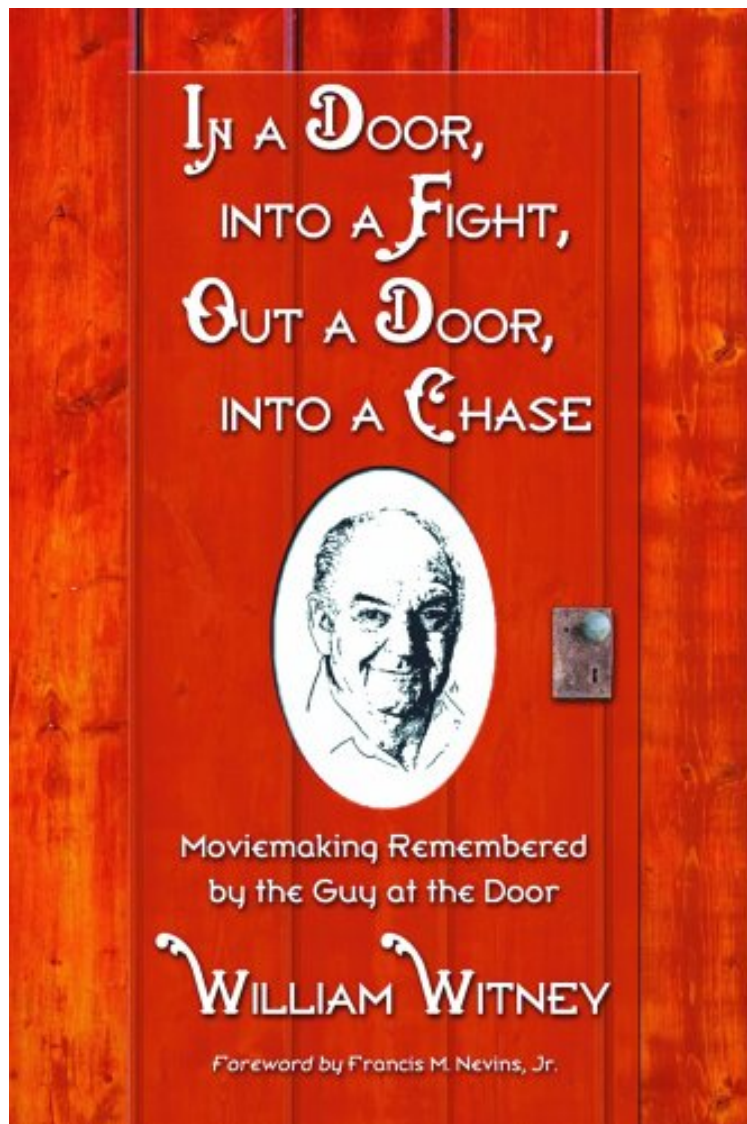


(Mobile book) In a Door, Into a Fight, Out a Door, Into a Chase: Moviemaking Remembered by the Guy at the Door

In a Door, Into a Fight, Out a Door, Into a Chase: Moviemaking Remembered by the Guy at the Door

William Witney

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William Witney : In a Door, Into a Fight, Out a Door, Into a Chase: Moviemaking Remembered by the Guy at the Door before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In a Door, Into a Fight, Out a Door, Into a Chase: Moviemaking Remembered by the Guy at the Door:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Nice Book by a Nice GuyBy Randy B.For any fan of motion

picture serials, the name William Witney is well known. He directed virtually every cliffhanger that can be named as Best in the field - "The Lone Ranger," "The Drums of Fu Manchu," "Spy Smasher," "The Perils of Nyoka" and "The Adventures of Captain Marvel." He and co-director John English simply knew what they were doing. Making the most possible out of small budgets and tight shooting schedules, they threw themselves into their work, determined to give their audiences the absolute most bang for the 25 cents a movie ticket cost in the 1940's. After years of being asked to write his memoirs about the wild and woolly early days of his career, Whitney relented and came up with this charming book. With the help of editors and ghost writers, his text is fun to read, sometimes with his anecdotes being overly padded and reducing their impact, but always conveying what a fun time he had back in the days when he was King of the quickie adventure film. Not especially deeply insightful into the subject matter, anyone picking up this book would have a deeper appreciation for the unique sub-genre of "B" pictures which serials were, and for the determined people who cranked them out. Fun stuff.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A better chronicle of the making of the serials will likely never be written. By Victor Thomas Whitney has an amazing memory, and makes his tale of becoming a serial movie director starting in his 20s in the decade of the Thirties simply live as he recounts his career serial by serial. Whitney directed some of the greatest serials of all time, and the producers, stunt people, actors and personnel formed a separate part of the Hollywood scene that had its own stars, studios, audiences and rules. Whitney's down to earth take on all the assorted players he met up with and his own technical innovations that changed action films give a picture of the era that is enlightening and entertaining. He gives credit where credit is due, and brings to the fore a slew of people who worked hard and sometimes thanklessly to create movies that never won awards but captivated millions. A really enjoyable book.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Youngest Director at the Age of 20 ... William Witney ... McFarland Co (2005)" By J. Lovins McFarland Co Publishing presents "IN A DOOR, INTO A FIGHT, OUT A DOOR, INTO A CHASE" (Paperback) - William Nuelsen

Whitney was an American film director --- He is most famous for the movie serials he co-directed with John English for Republic Pictures such as "Daredevils of the Red Circle" (1939), Zorro's Fighting Legion (1939) and "Drums of Fu Manchu" (1940) --- Born in 1915 in Lawton, Oklahoma, Whitney broke into the movie business in 1933 as a messenger boy and four years later became a director at the ripe age of 21 --- He was pressed into service on a Republic Pictures serial after the director was fired. He directed a large number of Western films over his career, and is credited with devising the modern system of filming movie fight sequences in a series of carefully choreographed shots, which he patterned after the musical sequences of American director Busby Berkeley. Prolific and pugnacious, Whitney began directing while still in his 20s, and continued up until the late 1960s --- During a 40 year career, Whitney worked on two dozen serials, including the popular Lone Ranger, Dick Tracy and Captain Marvel shows --- He directed more than 60 feature films, many of them 1940s and 1950s B-Westerns, along with hundreds of episodes of TV shows such as "Lassie," "Wagon Train" and "Bonanza." Quentin Tarantino singles him out as one of his favorite directors, particularly for The Golden Stallion (1949), a Roy Rogers vehicle --- Whitney also directed Master of the World (1961) starring Vincent Price and Charles Bronson --- "I've found directors I like, but William Witney is ahead of them all," director Quentin Tarantino told the New York Times in 2000. "I think it's so cool that he began as the king of cowboy serials and ended with a black exploitation film -- That's a career, man." Whitney went on to direct or codirect 23 Republic serials --- Though he enjoyed a long career as a feature film and television director, it is the Republic serials for which he is best remembered --- This engaging story is a behind-the-scenes look at the heyday of the Hollywood cliffhanger, the making of the movies, and the people involved in them.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

BIOS: 1. William Witney Date of Birth: 15 May 1915 - Lawton, Oklahoma Date of Death: 17 March 2002 - Jackson, California

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Check out a new book from Empire Publishing - "GENE AUTRY WESTERNS" (Hardcover) - by author Boyd Magers, like no other book on Gene Autry --- all of Gene's Mascot, Republic and Columbia westerns included, as well as his half-hour TV Episodes --- each segment contains the release date on each film ... major production credits ... complete cast (including character played) ... all songs included, songwriter and who performed them in the film ... running time of each film ... dates of the filming ... bios on the cast and major players (Smiley, Pat Buttram, Cass County Boys, Herbert J. Yates, directors, leading ladies, songwriters and various heavies, etc.) ... locations that were used ... budgets and negative cost ... stunt people involved ... analysis and synopsis on each film ... notes and comments (including film and cast background info, salaries paid, working titles, etc) ... comments from Gene and many other cast members on each film ... theater exhibitors comments at the time of the films release ... this tribute was written from the heart and it shows. Hats off and thanks to Les Adams (collector/guidelines for character identification), Chuck Anderson (Webmaster: The Old Corral/B-Westerns.Com), Boyd Magers (Western Clippings), Bobby J. Copeland (author of "Trail Talk"), Rhonda Lemons (Empire Publishing

Inc) and Bob Nareau (author of "The Real Bob Steele") as they have rekindled my interest once again for B-Westerns and Serials --- If you're into the memories of Movie Serials, this is the one you've been anxiously waiting for --- Witney and McFarland Co have captured the moment, please stand up and take a bow --- all my heroes have been cowboys! Total Pages: 246 ~ McFarland Co ~ (March 2005)

Early in 1937, a young film editor went on-location to St. George, Utah, for the filming of Republic's *The Painted Stallion*. Rain and cast problems put the production hopelessly behind schedule. The studio summarily fired the director and replaced him with the film editor. Thus was born the career of one of Hollywood's most famous serial directors, Bill Witney. Witney went on to direct or codirect 23 Republic serials, working with such stars as William Benedict, Hoot Gibson, Bela Lugosi, and Noah Beery, Sr. Witney's output included some of the most famous cliffhangers of the era, such as *Adventures of Red Ryder*, *Spy Smasher*, *Drums of Fu Manchu*, *The Lone Ranger*, and *The Lone Ranger Rides Again*. Though he enjoyed a long career as a feature film and television director, it is the Republic serials for which he is best remembered. This engaging story is a behind-the-scenes look at the heyday of the Hollywood cliffhanger, the making of the movies, and the people involved in them.

"Witney writes well and fondly of his films and colleagues...his ability to recapture the excitement of filmmaking is phenomenal"essential reading"--Big Reel; "essential...fascinating and insightful...recommended"--Wangler's Roost; "one of the greatest cliffhanger bargains available"--Serial Report; "this could easily be the most interesting book ever written about the early days of movie making. Great stuff. McFarland at its best!"--Little Shoppe of Horrors; "Witney writes well and fondly of his films and colleagues...his ability to recapture the excitement of filmmaking is phenomenal"--Classic Images; "engaging"--New York Times.About the AuthorThe late William Witney lived in Pioneer, California.