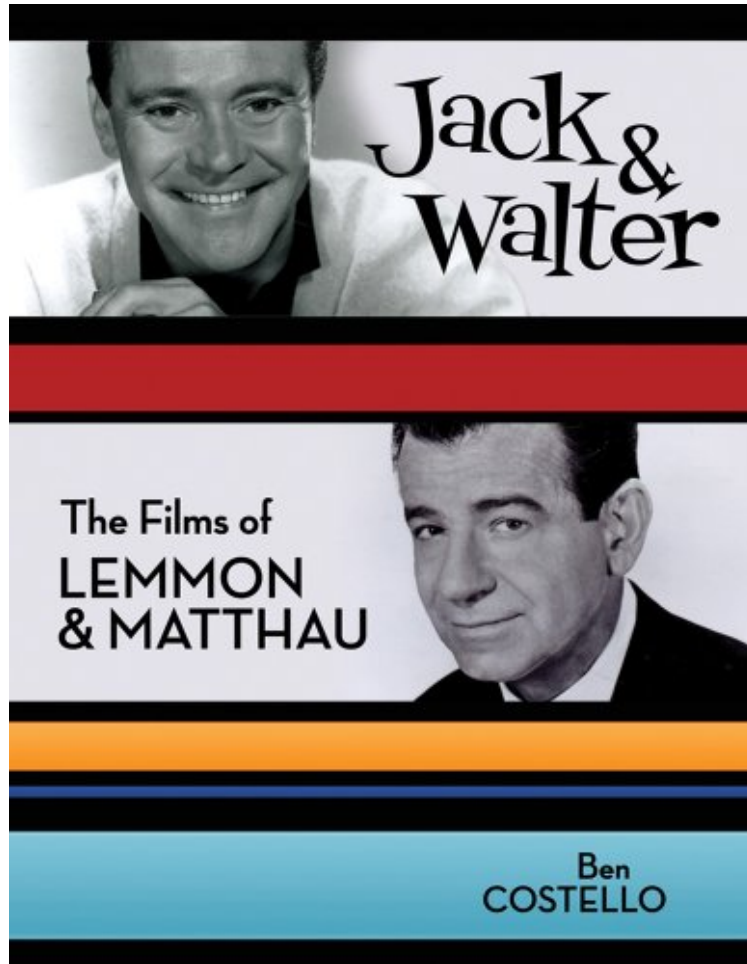


(Mobile library) Jack and Walter: The Films of Lemmon and Matthau

Jack and Walter: The Films of Lemmon and Matthau

Ben Costello

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Ben Costello : Jack and Walter: The Films of Lemmon and Matthau before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jack and Walter: The Films of Lemmon and Matthau:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not enough backstory info too thin
By bmovies
As both a Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau fan, I wish I could share the other reviewers enthusiasm for this book, but I cant. When I bought this, I was hoping for real informative, behind the scenes info about the making of the 11 films Jack and Walter made together. Oh, it does have that, under the heading "backstory", but for me it just isnt enough. Each film in the book has its own chapter. In each chapter are the credits list of the cast and crew, a synopsis of the entire film plot (beginning, middle, and ending), the behind the scenes 'backstory', quite a few choice quotes from film critics of the movie (interestingly, at first the book fairly provides both positive and negative movie critic quotes of their movies. But by their last movie listed, The Odd Couple II, only positive movie critic quotes are provided even though the vast majority of film critics panned it), and bunches of (black and white only) photographs. Now dont get me wrong. I DID

somewhat like the book, as any info on Jack and Walter and their films are a good thing, but its woefully, painfully thin. I bought this book HOPING for a massive amount of info on the behind the scenes info and anecdotes about the making of each and every film, the behind the scenes stuff. It does provide that in the "backstory" segments, BUT the "backstory" segment of each and every chapter is not much longer than the synopsis. They are just way too short. I place emphasis on the backstory as the most important part of the book because almost everything else in it I can get elsewhere on the internet or other books: The movie credits, the movie critiques, the biographies, the movie plots, etc. Its the "backstory" segments that are rare and unique and cant be found just anywhere and everywhere. And the photos take up so much space on the pages. They either take up half the page, 2/3rds of the page, or 3/4ths of the page (sometimes just one photo takes up an entire page), with only a couple of paragraphs of text under or over the photo. Only a few handful of photos are actually small, like around 1/4th of the page. I get the feeling that the reason for the enormous sizes of these photos was simply to pad out the book. I estimate that without the photos, the text takes up somewhere around 50 pages (less than 1/3rd of the 165 page book), if that. And thats including the 4 chapters of biography on Jack, Walter, the "teamwork", and "legacy" chapters. Not counting those 4 chapters, I estimate that in the chapters about their films, the text (not counting the space the photos takes up), is about 25-30 pages of this book. Thats the real meat of the book. Only 25-30 pages worth of text for 11 films! Just not enough. (and the movie credit pages all take up a whole page for each film even though only a small handful of the cast and crew are listed. These movie credit pages are just not complete). Even magazine articles are longer than this. If the author, Ben Costello, is reading this, you need to do an updated edition of this book by making the "backstory" segments 5, 10, even 20 times longer than they are now. Do the research, the legwork, the homework to put in much more detail, more inside and behind the scenes info, more anecdotes, more trivia into those segments. And make those photos smaller. This 165 page book ought to be a 3 hundred to 4 hundred page book. I paid 11.99, plus 3.99 for shipping, plus tax for this book (bought from an seller). Which came to a total of 17.35. I'm banging my head for paying that much money. This book just wasnt worth that price at all. 2 or 3 bucks, perhaps. I advise those who are wondering if they should buy this book, be patient and wait for the price to come way down, even if it takes a couple of years. You wont be missing much. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What a gift! By Sandra Heptinstall As a "Baby Boomer," I have grown up loving Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau movies. While they each had many good solo movies, together they were a team, a match made in heaven. This book not only talks about each actor, but also tells us about each movie they made together, and the relationship they had with each other. They were good friends from their first movie. In time they grew to love each other and enjoyed working together. They were so in-tuned to each other that at times the directors just let them run with or without the script. I have really enjoyed seeing the pictures in this book and the dialogue that goes with it. I have laughed and felt the sadness also. A high point is the fact that their movie's transcends all ages. My children who are now grown and have children of their own, still want to see the movies I have of Jack and Walter when they come to visit. I feel director John Davis summed it up best- "I will tell you why these guys were so perfect...they're Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. Their chemistry is so great that it doesn't matter what they're playing. It could be brain surgeons or Yiddish surfboard salesmen. It's the simple fact that they are Jack and Walter, and nobody can do it like they can." Or as Jack Lemmon would always say before a scene, "its magic time." If it had not been for the outstanding work by the author Ben Costello; most of us would never of had a chance to know the real Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. I can only imagine the many hours of research and interviews he did to create this fascinating book. For those of you who will buy this book, I leave you with these words--from the first page to the last "Its magic time." Whispering Winds Book Reviews 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Another Pictorial Treasure By Sandy Henry Ben Costello has done it again! In his new book, Jack Walter, author Costello offers readers a delightful peek into the lives of one of cinema's best loved screen teams. The author bios are a treat for Lemmon and Matthau fans who, like me, have enjoyed the actors' diverse characters over many years. But the photos are the real draw for me. I loved the pictures, which included many of Hollywood's biggest names: Clark Gable, Paul Newman, Shirley MacLaine, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lewis, Sophia Loren and many, many more. Buy a copy of this book for yourself, then pick up an extra for a Father's Day gift. You can't go wrong with Jack Walter, The Films of Lemmon Matthau!

Together, Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau put the fun in dysfunctional, working jointly in 11 memorable, often classic, cinematic pairings. At odds onscreen, the two become best friends off a friendship that enhanced every frame of film they appeared in side by side. Jack Walter follows the intersection of Lemmon and Matthau's careers, starting in 1966 with their first screen-pairing in *The Fortune Cookie* and continuing through their last laugh filled romp in *The Odd Couple II* in 1998. With Lemmon representing America's favorite everyman and Matthau characterizing the beloved grouchy brother-in-law, the dynamic duo made millions of moviegoers smile every time the two appeared in darkened theatres across the nation if not the world. Though both had remarkable solo careers, together their work cemented their positions in Hollywood history as the last great comedy team of the 20th Century. In recognition of the pair's remarkable cinematic achievements, author Ben Costello who became their life-long fan after meeting Lemmon on two memorable occasions and corresponding with Matthau produced this memorable testament to the friends who

made each motion picture come alive. With complete biographies of both Lemmon and Matthau, full credits and storylines for all 11 films, more than 100 publicity and behind-the-scenes photographs, and memories from co-workers and co-stars including some of Hollywood's biggest stars, *Jack Walter: The Films Of Lemmon Matthau* will be a favorite for fans and historians alike.

From the Inside Flap *Jack Walter* follows the intersection of Lemmon and Matthau's careers, starting in 1966 with their first screen-pairing in *The Fortune Cookie* and continuing through their last laugh filled romp in *The Odd Couple II* in 1998. With Lemmon representing America's favorite everyman and Matthau characterizing the beloved grouchy brother-in-law, the dynamic duo made millions of moviegoers smile every time the two appeared in darkened theatres across the nation if not the world. Though both had remarkable solo careers, together their work cemented their positions in Hollywood history as the last great comedy team of the 20th Century. In recognition of the pair's remarkable cinematic achievements, author Ben Costello who became their life-long fan after meeting Lemmon on two memorable occasions and corresponding with Matthau produced this memorable testament to the friends who made each motion picture come alive. With complete biographies of both Lemmon and Matthau, full credits and storylines for all 11 films, more than 100 publicity and behind-the-scenes photographs, and memories from co-workers and co-stars including some of Hollywood's biggest stars, *Jack Walter: The Films Of Lemmon Matthau* will be a favorite for fans and historians alike.

About the Author Ben Costello is a self-confessed film and television buff. Starting as young as age five, he appeared onstage in a variety of dramatic and comedic roles. Through the years, Costello won awards for acting, directing and writing. He wrote, produced and co-starred in *The Whitley Costello Show* for cable television in 1979. With the blessing of Lucille Hardy Price, widow of comedian Oliver Hardy, Costello took the classic Laurel and Hardy movie *Way Out West* and adapted it for the stage, in 1987. In 1988, his play titled *Company B* debuted. A slapstick musical tribute to World War II, the show, was so popular it spawned five stage sequels. For his work on the production, Costello won Best Actor, Director, Writer and Production awards from various Southern California Theatre Leagues. Along with fellow comedian John Babrowski, Costello, who is not related to Lou Costello, played in casinos and clubs from New York to Las Vegas, frequently portraying characters similar to Abbott and Costello. In fact, Babrowski and Ben Costello performed the classic "Who's On First" routine at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, to kick off the 2000 World Series. Honored, they were the first to do so since Abbott and Costello performed the skit there 44 years earlier. Together, Babrowski and Costello made their motion picture debut in the Sci-Fi spoof *Cyxork 7* starring Ray Wise a film that attained a cult following. In 2005, Costello published his first book *Gunsmoke: An American Institution* - an award-winning tribute to the great Western television series. His second book, *Jack Walter: The Films of Lemmon and Matthau*, is available to the public in January 2009. A divorced father of one, Costello lives in the desert community of Joshua Tree, California. He enjoys the company of family and friends, especially his 12-year-old son Eddie, and when time permits, a good Maduro cigar.