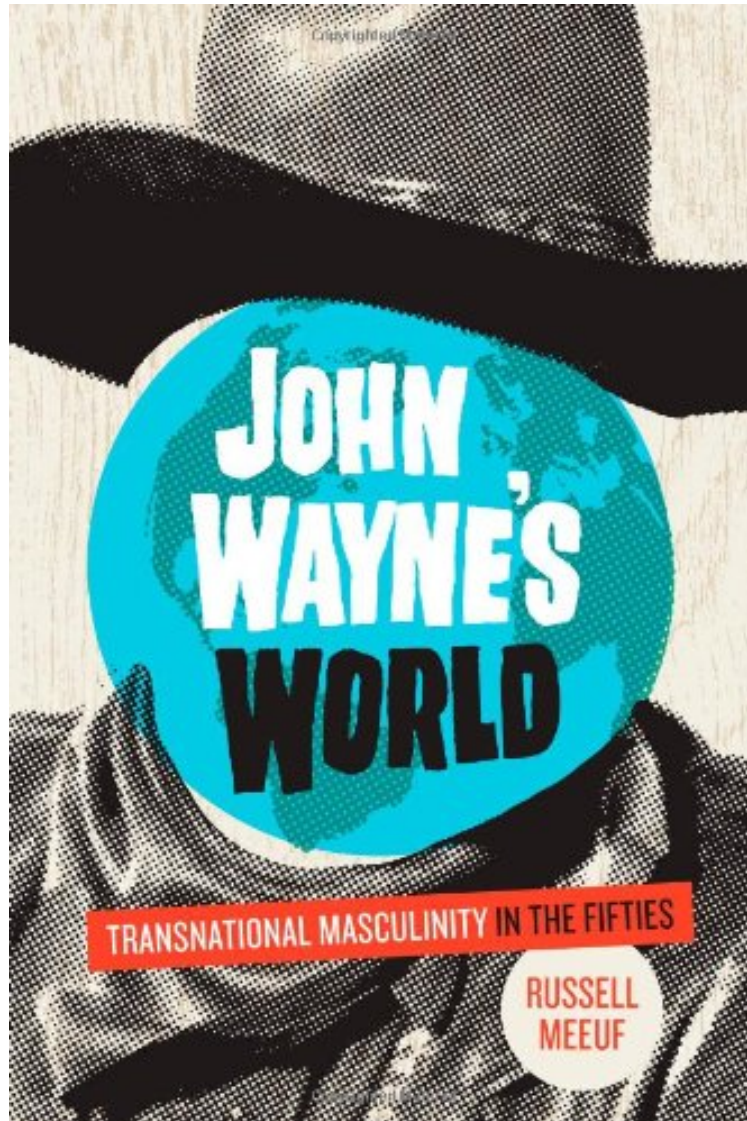


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John Waynes World: Transnational Masculinity in the Fifties

Russell Meeuf

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Dolores Drapalikgreat

In a film career that spanned five decades, John Wayne became a U.S. icon of heroic individualism and rugged

masculinity. His widespread popularity, however, was not limited to the United States: he was beloved among moviegoers in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe. In *John Wayne's World*, Russell Meeuf considers the actor's global popularity and makes the case that Wayne's depictions of masculinity in his most popular films of the 1950s reflected the turbulent social disruptions of global capitalism and modernization taking place in that decade. *John Wayne's World* places Wayne at the center of gender- and nation-based ideologies, opening a dialogue between film history, gender studies, political and economic history, and popular culture. Moving chronologically, Meeuf provides new readings of *Fort Apache*, *Red River*, *Hondo*, *The Searchers*, *Rio Bravo*, and *The Alamo* and connects Wayne's characters with a modern, transnational masculinity being reimagined after World War II. Considering Wayne's international productions, such as *Legend of the Lost* and *The Barbarian and the Geisha*, Meeuf shows how they resonated with U.S. ideological positions about Africa and Asia. Meeuf concludes that, in his later films, Wayne's star text shifted to one of grandfatherly nostalgia for the past, as his earlier brand of heroic masculinity became incompatible with the changing world of the 1960s and 1970s. The first academic book-length study of John Wayne in more than twenty years, *John Wayne's World* reveals a frequently overlooked history behind one of Hollywood's most iconic stars.

"This excellent book documents the pervasive influence John Wayne had on not only American but also international culture in the 1950s [...] Throughout the text, Meeuf offers penetrating analysis of Wayne's star persona, his physical presence on screen, and the ways in which Wayne's construction of masculinity informed 1950s American values. Summing Up: Highly Recommended." - Choice
About the Author: Russell Meeuf is Assistant Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Media at the University of Idaho and coeditor of *Transnational Stardom: International Celebrity in Film and Popular Culture*.