

W.C. Fields from the Ziegfeld Follies and Broadway Stage to the Screen: Becoming a Character Comedian (Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History)



This book reveals how Fields became a character comedian while performing in Broadway's most illustrious revue, the Ziegfeld Follies. As the first biography to use the recently opened Fields Papers at the Motion Picture Academy, the book explores how Fields' years as a Follies entertainer portraying a beleaguered husband and a captivating conman became a landmark turning point in his career, leading to his fame as a masterful film comedian. The book also untangles a web of mysteries about Fields' turbulent private life, from the heartrending stories about the tragic relationship with his calculating wife who refused to divorce him, to his estranged son controlled by his mother, to the seven-year extra-marital affair with a chorus girl that led to the birth of an unwanted child. This electrifying saga illuminates a complex dual personality, whirling from tenderness to brusqueness, who endured so much anguish in order to bring the gift of laughter to millions. Although vilified by Ziegfeld and assailed by demons, Fields survived the cutthroat rigors of Broadway show biz to become a legendary American iconoclast and cultural icon.

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WC Fields from the Ziegfeld Follies and Broadway Stage to the Jan 19, 2017 W.C. Fields from the Ziegfeld Follies and Broadway Stage to the Screen. Part of the series Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History pp 155-165 and poignant comedy, the Scandals and other new revues made eyes, was among the most colorful characters frequenting The Great White Way. **W. C. Fields from Burlesque and Vaudeville to Broadway: Becoming** 63 results Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History is a series devoted to Uncle Toms Cabin on the American Stage and Screen W.C. Fields from the Ziegfeld Follies and Broadway Musicals to the Screen This book reveals how Fields became a character comedian while performing in Broadway's most **WC Fields from the Ziegfeld Follies and**

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