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Bookshelf

GEORGE L. GEORGE

A set of four serviceable directories to key motion picture industry personnel has been issued by Lone Eagle, an active Beverly Hills publisher. The 6th annual volume of *Film Directors*, compiled and edited by Michael Singer, is a standard reference guide to some 2,500 U.S. and foreign directors, featuring a cross-index to their 16,000 films. Each entry includes complete credits, vital statistics, and a home/agent address. Separate sections highlight the careers of notable filmmakers of the past and of six prominent living directors. (\$49.95).

The set's three other directories, all compiled and edited by Kate Bales, are *Cinematographers, Production Designers, Costume Designers and Film Editors* (\$29.95), *Film Writers* (\$24.95), and *Film Producers, Studios and Agents* (\$19.95). Each guide provides, within its own area, up-to-date and verified information summarizing personnel and facilities of the Hollywood film industry. The broad scope of these substantial volumes fills a need for reliable and specific data about sometimes overlooked segments of film production.

The disaster that occurred during the filming of *Twilight Zone* is reviewed in Ron LaBrecque's insightful and accurate account, *Special Effects*. It documents extensively the tragic events that caused the death of three performers, the trial in which director John Landis and his associates were acquitted of involuntary manslaughter, and the impact on safety in film production. (Scribner's NYC, \$19.95).

In *Effective Audio-Visual*, Robert S. Simpson provides users with a functional handbook on equipment and techniques. It covers such standard situations as conferences, business presentations and training sessions. It also specifies the equipment best suited for particular utilizations, from simple slide projection to complex multi-image programming and computer animation. (Focal Press, Stoneham, MA, \$39.95).

A comprehensive, thoroughly researched discography by Steve Harris, *Film, Television and Stage Music on Phonograph Records* catalogs all important recordings from U.S. and Great Britain through 1986, reaching a grand total of 11,761 discs. Each entry includes title, composer, date, country of pressing, format and label. (McFarland, Jefferson, NC, \$49.95).

The private lives of glamorous stars have always fascinated their fans, as well as the literary purveyors of this popular genre. In *The Marilyn Scandal*, Sandra Shevey skillfully reworks published accounts of the late star's freewheeling sexuality. (Morrow, NYC, \$18.95). In *Gracie: A Love Story*, George Burns pays homage, both touching and humorous, to his late wife and partner. (Putnam, NYC, \$16.95). Warren G. Harris, in *Natalie and R. J.*, offers a wealth of details on the life and careers of Natalie Wood and Robert J. Wagner. (Doubleday, NYC, \$16.95). In *Cooper's Women*, Jane Ellen Wayne recounts at great length the handsome actor's romantic entanglements. (Prentice Hall, NYC, \$16.95).

In *Hollywood High*, John Blumenthal surveys the history of America's perhaps most famous public school. Dubbed "the star hatchery," it supplied the entertainment industry with everything from ingenues to stuntmen, and boasted such students as Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Lana Turner, Carol Burnett, Linda Evans, Yvette Mimieux and many others. (Ballantine, NYC, \$7.95).



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