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Hollywood In Kodachrome



Synopsis

Hollywood in Kodachrome is a stunning portfolio of the stars of Hollywood's Golden Age, captured in rich, deeply saturated color photographs reproduced from original Kodachrome negatives and curated by collector David Wills and designer Stephen Schmidt, the creative team behind Marilyn Monroe: Metamorphosis and Audrey: The 60s. From Elizabeth Taylor, Ava Gardner, and Rita Hayworth to Fred Astaire, Humphrey Bogart, and Gregory Peck "and many more" the silver screen's elite are all here, in the full blush of youth, captured as if they were taken yesterday. But the true star is the medium itself: late-1940s sheet Kodachrome, a film stock that remains legendary for its rich tonal range, precise color, and detail. Including a foreword by Golden Age star Rhonda Fleming, and featuring more than 200 photos from classic films and publicity shoots, Hollywood in Kodachrome is a magnificent tribute to Hollywood's most beloved icons, captured at their glamorous best.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: It Books (November 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062265547

ISBN-13: 978-0062265548

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 9 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #558,299 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #164 in Books > Arts &

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Customer Reviews

I own many glamour portrait books, but this one by far is outstanding. The book spans the period from 1940-1949, and it is exquisitely produced. It is loaded with hundreds of magnificent portraits, rare stills and advertisements, all in vibrant color. The stylish photos are large, crisp and very modern given their era. All stars from the 1940s are included even lesser known ones. The text is limited to a foreword and a brief introduction, but the attractive photos speak for themselves. All the portraits have captions with the names of the stars, the dates, and the photographers. For all collectors of fine photography books, this beautiful tome is a must have.

If you admire great portraiture from the deans of the Hollywood glamour style, you will love this book. It contains many unique images, not found elsewhere, because they were never published in color. Along with a wonderful author's introduction, detailing the historical story behind the advent of Kodachrome film, and how it impacted the motion picture and publication industries through the late 1930's and 40's, coinciding with the apotheosis of classic Hollywood filmmaking, you get a three hundred pagebook which is virtually an encyclopedia of glamour photography in color. The book also details the now defunct Carbro process, of interest to those following the development of the history of color photography. Including a forward by Rhonda Flemming, thisstunning book features probably the finest single collection of Hollywood color portraiture yet to appear in print from authors who have collected and scoured private collections for the original color transparencies from which the book was produced. The bookcovers Hollywood color photography between 1940 and 1949, but details the earlier introduction of Kodachrome film, making the amature home movies and color slides of the 1940's and 50's a practical reality. But the book really focuses on the professional work being done in Hollywood and the creation of the glamour so eagerly lapped up by fan magazines that became one of the main publicity venues to promote feature films and their stars. Several reproductions off of the original film transparencies are compared, side-by-side, with their eventual published form as magazine covers. Focusing largely on the Hollywood celebrities of the World War II Era, Hollywood In Kodachrome delivers a fantastic array of the greatest publicity portraiture in color to ever grace the pages of a book. If you love the glamour style of Hollywood's Golden Era, you can't go wrong on this wonderful highly recommended collection of color images. You will definitely get your money's worth.

In my reception room, I performed an experiment. I put my personal photos in an album upon the table along with magazines or architecture books. My visitors ALWAYS turned to the personal pictures...and it helped me develop a rapport with new clients. Now, some persons may not feel comfortable with my suggestion, but the next choice would be to place this very book in the reception room. These are big eye-popping color portraits of the glamour gods and goddesses of the 1940's - the ones we love(Robert Mitchum, Gene Tierney, Rita Hayworth, Gary Cooper, Cary Grant, James Cagney, Hedy Lamarr).There is a feeling as if the fashion and cinema photographers were dazzled by color...it was new. And that excitement communicates to the viewers. If you thought you knew these film greats in black and white, wait until you sample this treat.I intend to give quite a few of these books for Christmas gifts.

Absolutely outstanding gift book for anyone looking to give a gift to someone interested in the movie stars of the 40's and 50's. The photos in this book are beautiful. I am giving this as a Holiday present and I know they will be overjoyed to get this!

David Wills has put together one of the most beautiful books of color photographs of Hollywood stars during the golden age. The photographs are amazing and have gem like quality because of the extraordinary richness of Kodak's Kodachrome color process. My favorite chapter is the 'Posed Candid's', which were shots taken ostensibly of stars at home living their regular lives (just like their fans, right?) but of course behind the camera stood a press agent, a hairstylist, a make up artist and a team of assistants, etc. After looking at the book (which you will do again and again) you will want to immediately watch one of the films from Hollywood's golden age.

A delight to see these incredible photographs of the movie stars from the 40's. The book has a few pages of written word, but it's almost all photographs. If you're a fan of Hollywood of the past, this is a wonderful book.

Absolutely gorgeous . Although I have seen a few of these photos already, it is a wonderful collection. Where is Vol. 2?

This was a Christmas present for my sister. We grew up on old movies and she just went crazy over the book. The beautiful color pictures of the Golden Age stars of Hollywood look like something out of a dream. If anyone is a movie fan, then do yourself a big favor and get the beautiful book of a bygone era and the stars who made it a Dream Factory...

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