

Information, Answers & Reviews

Gene Wilder (1933 ? 2016)



I can still remember the first time I saw Gene Wilder in a film. He was playing a

mousey accountant by the name of Leo Bloom who, while going over the books of once-famous Broadway Producer Max Bialystock makes the casual observation that it would be possible, though dishonest, to make more money with a Broadway flop than a successful production. The film was *The Producers*, and the rest they say is history and Gene Wilder screamed his way into being one of my favorite comedic actors as Zero Mostel stood over him while he lay on the floor in a panic screaming, *Don't Jump on me. Don't Jump on me.*

Gene went on to star in many well-known comedies: *Blazing Saddles*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Stir Crazy*, *Silver Streak* and many others. His role as candy maker Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* will likely never be forgotten. The library owns a number of Gene Wilder's Films and books. You did know he was also a writer, didn't you? The link below will create a list of items to choose from. He will be missed.

The Films and Book of Gene Wilder

Posted by Keith C. on August 31, 2016

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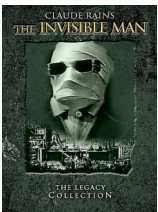
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The Invisible Man (1933)



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Claude Rains was perhaps one of the most recognizable character actors from the classic era of film. He was able to play almost any part. Among his best known roles were Captain Louis Renault in *Casablanca* and Prince John in *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. *The Invisible Man* was his first major film role. Prior to this film he had only appeared on screen in one silent film short. The rest of his early acting life had been spent on the hardwood stages. In *The Invisible Man*, Mr. Rains stars as Dr. Jack Griffin, who disappears one day while working in the lab of his

friend and mentor Dr. Cranley His mysterious disappearance from the lab has Flora, Dr. Cranley's daughter and Jack's girlfriend, worried regarding his whereabouts. Unbeknownst to the two of them Jack Griffin has done more than simply walked away from the lab and them. He has literally disappeared, becoming completely invisible. Wrapped in bandages to hide his invisibility he sets up a lab in a local Inn to work on a way to bring himself back to normalcy. Sadly the formula which made him invisible is also affecting his mind and he is becoming more unbalanced and violent as time passes. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on August 30, 2016

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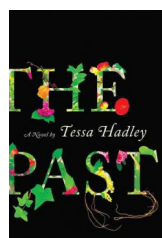
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The Past



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This novel is a dense, rich celebration of an English family, first in the present time, then in the past--the late 60s and early 70s.

In the first half, four siblings: Harriet, Alice, Roland, and Jane meet at the old family homestead near the sea for a family reunion. The house is being sold, and it will be their last time together at their childhood home.

Accompanying them, are children (Jane's), a new South American wife (Roland's--his third), a young friend, and son of a former lover (Alice's), and all alone, (Harriet).

In the siblings' idiosyncratic fashion, Harriet arrives first; she leaves the house locked and goes wandering in the forest. Alice arrives with Kasim, and then realizes, what she has done, brought an eighteen-year old to a place with nothing going on. Roland calls and says there will be delay, and that he and Pilar will arrive on Sunday.

Alice runs through the house, throwing open windows, picking and placing beautiful bouquets in each of the adults' room, while Jane, the mom, practically begins cooking the evening meal as her two children, Ivy and Arthur explore.

Privately, Jane and Harriet discuss whether Kazim is more than a friend to wild, actress Alice. Kazim reads on the porch terribly bored. But on Sunday when Roland, Pilar and Molly, Roland's sixteen year old daughter, arrive. Kazim immediately perks up at Molly's appearance. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 18, 2016

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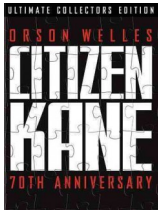
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Citizen Kane



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Citizen Kane tells the fictional story of rich newspaper publisher Charles Foster Kane, his rise to power and eventual decline as he shifts from an idealistic publisher/editor into egotist whose power has gone to his head. It was based loosely on the life of William Randolph Hurst, but not loosely enough to suit Hurst. The film pulled few punches and Hurst was not amused at being the subject, even if indirectly of such a movie. *Citizen Kane* almost completely failed at the box office when it was released and even before the production was finished the film was wrapped in controversy. Director and writer Orson Wells was accused by Hurst of the being a communist, and a homosexual, both of which were considered major issues in 1941. Interestingly he also accused Wells of being a womanizer and Socialist as well. As you can see the accusations leveled at Wells were often contradictory and usually untrue. The major newspapers, owned by Hurst refused to review the film or allow it to be advertised in their pages. In fact, no review of *Citizen Kane* appeared in any paper owned by Hurst until the mid- seventies over 30 years after its release. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on August 17, 2016

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Cheyenne Social Club



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Harley Sullivan: What kind of business you figure your brother left you?

John O'Hanlan: Well, the letter don't say - but that's just like a lawyer. They don't tell you no more than it takes to confuse you. But it's a... something called the Cheyenne Social Club.

After receiving a letter informing him of the death of his brother John O'Hanlan (James Stewart) leaves his position as a hired hand on a cattle drive to take over the Cheyenne Social Club the business his brother left him in his will. It might seem obvious to us by the name of the business and the movie just exactly what the nature of the business is, but this is a story about a more innocent time and John O'Hanlan is a more innocent man. He is joined on his trek across the country and into Cheyenne by his good friend Harley (Henry Fonda). The film which was directed by Gene Kelly moves fluidly through the story from one situation to another. Low Key? may be the best way to describe this film about a man of high morals, and a kind heart who suddenly finds himself the owner of the most famous brothel in Wyoming. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on August 5, 2016

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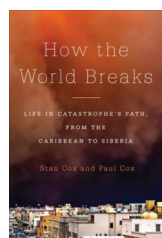
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How the World Breaks: Life in Catastrophe's Path from the Caribbean to Siberia



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Anyone following the news these days sees far too many disasters: from wildfires to typhoons, mega-rain storms to landslides, tornados to earthquakes. This book examines how humans react to disasters, what is causing them, and what the future may bring.

Written by the father/son team of Stan and Paul Cox, this book looks at twelve major disasters in depth including some still in progress. The chapter 'Atlantis of the Americas' covers the flooding of Miami, Fl. that happens now even on clear days, and is expected to eventually make the city uninhabitable.

In 'Gray Goo: East Java, Indonesia,' the Coxes examines an event that caused massive amounts of mud to erupt over what was once a crowded middle class area. The authors believe that a mining operation triggered this extremely destructive mud volcano. As in many disasters, the authors show how the government got stuck with a huge bill while powerful companies got

off the hook. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 4, 2016

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