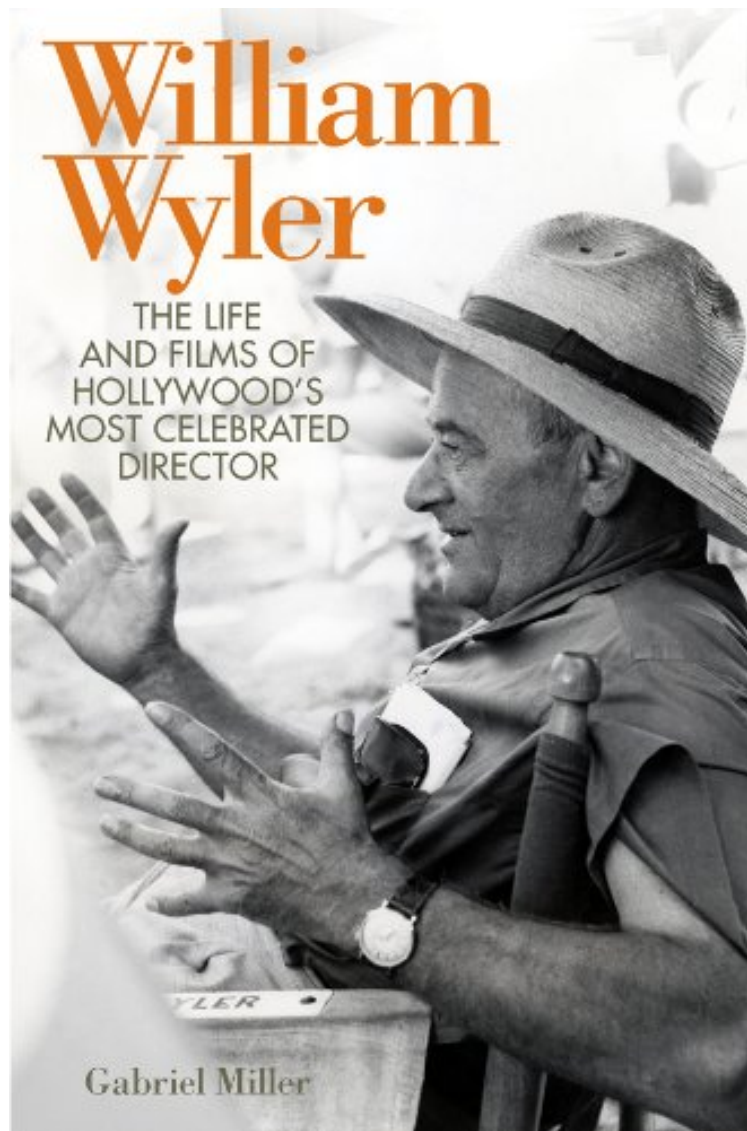


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Gabriel Miller

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Gabriel Miller : William Wyler: The Life and Films of Hollywood's Most Celebrated Director (Screen Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised William Wyler: The Life and Films of Hollywood's Most Celebrated Director (Screen Classics):

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Life of a famous film director By Bruce Beresford A disappointing book as far too much space is wasted simply recounting the plots of various Wyler films. There is little insight into his

character and little assessment of his achievements. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. so-so By Jarde Vieira Silva In the first chapter but for me the author do not cover the first years very well and spend a lot of time try to analyse technics and subjectives aspects of the movie instead to tell the in between lines .. 1 of 8 people found the following review helpful. William Wyler By jazz man I actually bought it for a friend who enjoys anything about William Wyler as one of the best directors of our time .

During his forty-five-year career, William Wyler (1902--1981) pushed the boundaries of filmmaking with his gripping storylines and innovative depth-of-field cinematography. With a body of work that includes such memorable classics as *Jezebel* (1938), *Mrs. Miniver* (1942), *Ben-Hur* (1959), and *Funny Girl* (1968), Wyler is the most nominated director in the history of the Academy Awards and bears the distinction of having won an Oscar for Best Director on three occasions. Both Bette Davis and Lillian Hellman considered him America's finest director, and Sir Laurence Olivier said he learned more about film acting from Wyler than from anyone else. In *William Wyler*, Gabriel Miller explores the career of one of Hollywood's most unique and influential directors, examining the evolution of his cinematic style. Wyler's films feature nuanced shots and multifaceted narratives that reflect his preoccupation with realism and story construction. The director's later works were deeply influenced by his time in the army air force during World War II, and the disconnect between the idealized version of the postwar experience and reality became a central theme of Wyler's masterpiece, *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946). None of Wyler's contemporaries approached his scope: he made successful and seminal films in practically every genre, including social drama, melodrama, and comedy. Yet, despite overwhelming critical acclaim and popularity, Wyler's work has never been extensively studied. This long-overdue book offers a comprehensive assessment of the director, his work, and his films' influence.

From Booklist *Starred* If you mentioned the name William Wyler to average movie fans today, would they know whom you were talking about? Sure, he retired from making movies more than 40 years ago (and died more than 30 years ago), but still: he made *Ben-Hur*, for crying out loud, and *Jezebel*, and *Mrs. Miniver*, and *Funny Girl*, and *The Best Years of Our Lives*, and *Wuthering Heights*, and *The Collector*—classics all. He was nominated for an Academy Award as best director 12 times and won 3 times. His deep-focus style, which took film composition to new levels of artistry, influenced moviemakers for generations. This insightful and incredibly detailed book is film criticism posing as biography, or possibly its reverse: the life of a great American film director told through a close analysis—almost frame-by-frame analysis—of his films. Miller's writing style is fluid and accessible, even when he delves into seriously technical material, and his respect and admiration for Wyler comes through loud and clear on every page. Bafflingly little known today among moviegoers, Wyler was a giant of American film, and, upon its publication, this book instantly becomes an essential addition to any film collection. -- David Pitt "This book does a very thorough job of analyzing Wyler's films and provides incisive insights into what may have been the director's intentions as he crafted scripts, composed images, and edited film. A very enlightening study of Wyler." Tom Matthews, screenwriter for *Mad City* and author of *Like We Care* "With his commanding knowledge of film history, meticulous research and deeply insightful analysis, Gabriel Miller makes a powerful case for declaring Wyler one of our two or three greatest film directors and reminds us that this great artist's unprecedented versatility was a virtue and not a vice." James Verniere, *The Boston Herald* and the National Society of Film Critics "There is a lot to enjoy in *William Wyler: The Life and Films of Hollywood's Most Celebrated Director*. . . . If you want a crash course in Wyler, from a filmmaking standpoint, pick up a copy." *Journeys in Classic Film* "Miller's great accomplishment is identifying Wyler's worldview as social conscience coupled with skepticism over the value of pacifism." *Shepherd Express Milwaukee* "In this detailed survey of Wyler's work, Miller does a credible job of supporting his argument that Wyler "most certainly belongs in the company of the most accomplished and distinguished of American directors." *History News Network* "Miller gives Wyler's style the depth it truly deserves, discussing the director's use of deep-focus photography (years before Orson Welles famously used it on *Citizen Kane*) and his careful compositions. He also touches on Wyler's work with actors, which was often fiery. Wyler was a perfectionist who knew exactly what he wanted; unfortunately he could be maddeningly inarticulate when it came to telling his performers just what that was." *Star-Ledger* "Nj.com" "For the true movie lover, the only pleasure that can come close to matching that of steeping oneself, Norma Desmond-like, in the flickering images of a great movie is wallowing a long, exhaustive, in-depth biography of a beloved filmmaker. And in terms of all the things that matter - research, organization, access, industry and adulation - *William Wyler: The Life and Films of Hollywood's Most Celebrated Director* by Gabriel Miller hits the mark." *New York Journal of Books* "Miller's writing style is fluid and accessible, even when he delves into seriously technical material, and his respect and admiration for Wyler comes through loud and clear on every page. Bafflingly little known today among moviegoers, Wyler was a giant of American film, and, upon its publication, this book instantly becomes an essential addition to any film collection." David Pitt, *Booklist* "This is the best study of Wyler we have. A welcome addition to the literature of filmmaking." Kirkus "Miller shows how much still can be done with Wyler's long, illustrious career, and his book is easily the most comprehensive and insightful of the lot. . . . Absolutely accurate and rich with detail. . . . Miller's book brings Wyler's

work alive for contemporary audiences."?ChoiceFrom the Inside FlapInterviews with the director of "Ben Hur, Jezebel, Mrs. Miniver, Roman Holiday, " and "Wuthering Heights"