



## Vaudeville, Old and New: An Encyclopedia of Variety Performers in America, 2 volumes

*By Frank Cullen*

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This is a one-of-a-kind reference work to the history of vaudeville, performance art, burlesque, revue, and comic opera. Most of these artists are not profiled in other reference books and the author has done deep research, including archival work and personal interviews, to uncover the rich history of this American artform. This will be a must-have for students of theater history and performance art, but it is also essential for anyone interested in the cultural history of America.

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**Vaudeville, Old and New: An Encyclopedia of Variety Performers in America, 2 volumes** By Frank Cullen **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Written by the winners of the Theatre Museum of New York's 2011 award for Excellence in the Preservation of Theatre History!

"Whether you start from the beginning and read it straight through, or use to look up an artist you found on a recording, you'll find this book a great resource. It's a tribute to the hard work and passion of the author. Highly recommended!" - *Steve Ramm, "Anything Phonographic," In The Groove Magazine*

"Two decades in the making, this ambitious resource is unique for its scope, details, and illustrations. Cullen and his coauthors cover the full range of the subject, including contemporary variety entertainers and performance artists...It is destined to become a standard." - *CHOICE*

"A readable and entertaining text. ... within the covers of both volumes are many delights (and some terrifically offbeat listings) and much pleasure. ... Certainly no reference work to date is comparable to the exhaustive, two-volume effort by Frank Cullen. ... Truly the riches of this extraordinary work are numerous, the entertainment factor sizeable, and the lack of pretentiousness welcomed." - *Professor Emeritis Don B. Wilmeth, Theatre Survey, Fall 2007*

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"[F]or sheer scope, scale and ambition nothing holds a candle to *Vaudeville, Old & New: An Encyclopedia of Variety Performers in America* by Frank Cullen, Florence Hackman & Donald McNeilly... the book surpasses the previous authoritative work on the subject...an appreciation (beyond usual scholarly perspectives) for what precisely makes certain performers successful with audiences...it is the ultimate cornucopia for show business fanatics." - *Trav S. D., The American Theatre, March 2007*

"All that you could ever want to know about vaudeville is contained in a monumental two-volume work, *Vaudeville Old and New: An Encyclopedia of Variety Performers*. It surpasses anything previously written about the American equivalent of British music hall and will stand as the major reference work on the subject for many years to come... fine writing evinces some deft and delicate touches. The extensive knowledge and deep love of vaudeville by the author, Frank Cullen [working with Florence Hackman and Donald McNeilly], shine through in each of these tomes' 1,300 magnificent pages." - *Richard Anthony Baker, The Stage (UK), February 2007*

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#### From the Back Cover

“Vaudeville was more than an assembly of ragtime pantaloons, topical monologists, eccentric dancers, barrel-house songbirds, magicians, tumblers and jugglers, more than a coast-to-coast network of once-gilded theatres shambling into plaster dust. Vaudeville was a people’s culture. What has remained of vaudeville is the act—a distillation of a performer’s best material into a near-perfect performance piece: the product of

personality, talent and skill—the vaudevillian's reason for living." - Frank Cullen

#### About the Author

Frank Cullen currently works as editorial assistant with the Irish Historic Towns Atlas project in the Royal Irish Academy. He completed his PhD in history (NUI Maynooth, 2005) with a thesis titled 'Local government and the management of urban space: a comparative study of Belfast and Dublin, 1830 - 1922.

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