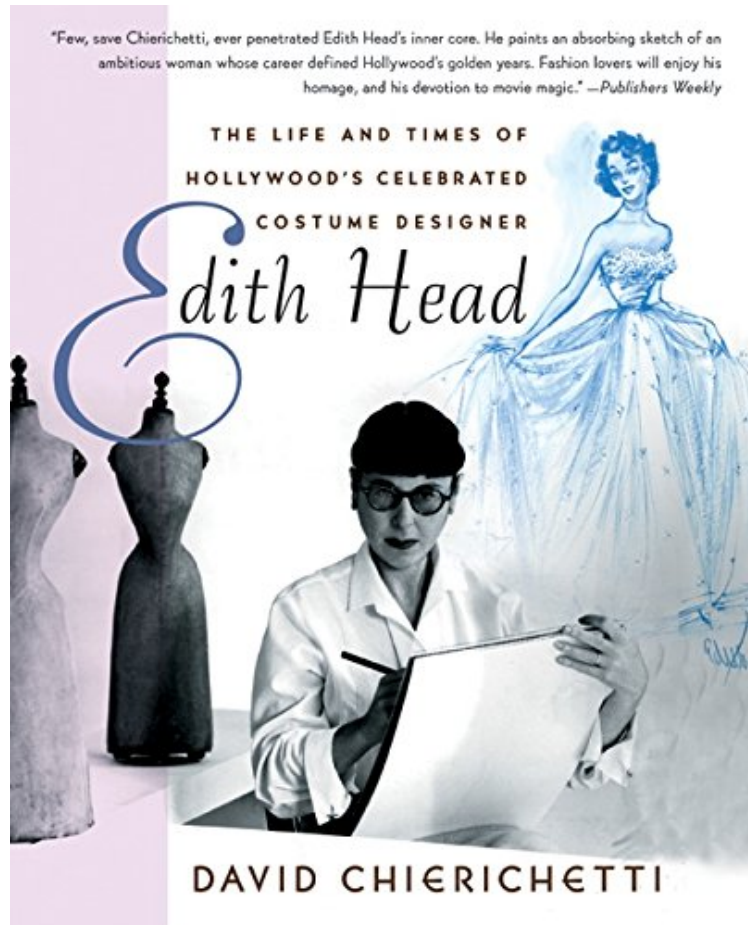


(Read free) Edith Head: The Life and Times of Hollywood's Celebrated Costume Designer

Edith Head: The Life and Times of Hollywood's Celebrated Costume Designer

David Chierichetti

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#1800486 in Books 2003-12-23 2003-12-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.13 x .68 x 7.381, #File Name: 0060567406272 pages | File size: 79.Mb

David Chierichetti : Edith Head: The Life and Times of Hollywood's Celebrated Costume Designer before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Edith Head: The Life and Times of Hollywood's Celebrated Costume Designer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Susan Piring always interested in Hollywood costumes and gowns. Edith Head had an interesting life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Edith Head By Lory One of the most informative books on Edith Head. Most other books about her use this book for their research. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lyn Turner Great book for those who collect anything Edith Head. Was delivered in good time.

Edith Head is widely considered the most important figure in the history of Hollywood costume design. Her career spanned nearly half a century and included such classic films as *Rear Window* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Her private life

and professional achievements have been the subject of speculation since she rose to the top in the late 1940s. Ruthlessly competitive and intensely secretive, Head had few close friends and many detractors. Her longtime friend, protégé, and confidant David Chierichetti offers a privileged glimpse into the personality behind the famously impenetrable "schoolmarm" façade and a comprehensive account of her creative process. With more than 150 images including family snapshots, sketches, and studio portraits of the stars and roles she helped to create, Edith Head is a fresh and vital portrait of the designer, as well as of the era she epitomizes.

From Publishers Weekly Film historian Chierichetti pays tribute to the grit behind one woman's glamorous career. Head spent more than 40 years at Paramount, won eight Oscars and became as famous as the stars she dressed. Her longevity came thanks to diplomacy and manipulation, and Chierichetti meticulously details her love affairs, touted designs and public appeal. From 1925 until her death in 1981, Head was a byword in Hollywood and an American fashion icon. She endured long hours, modest pay and studio machinations, yet never lost her cool. And she dressed everyone, from Barbara Stanwyck and Grace Kelly to Paul Newman. Draped in dark glasses and severe suits, Head was a master at playing politics and keeping competitors at bay. She was also an accomplished liar, which haunted her throughout her life. Head accepted the Oscar for Sabrina, though the gowns were designed by Givenchy. She gambled that the unknown Frenchman would remain silent—and he did. Not that the impenetrable Head wasn't a talent in her own right. Her ability to stay within budget and placate divas—"I might have to dress her again"—was as legendary as her fashion virtuosity. Olivia de Havilland dubbed her "a marvel." Yet the twice-married designer was also insecure and aloof; keeping secrets kept her in the game. Few, save Chierichetti, ever penetrated her inner core. He paints an absorbing sketch of an ambitious woman whose career defined Hollywood's golden years. Fashion lovers will enjoy his homage, and his devotion to movie magic. Photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Adult/High School—When Hollywood was young, a teacher named Edith Head passed off her students' sketches as her own to get a job at Paramount Pictures as a costume designer's assistant. This ruse was the beginning of the career of one of the most talented and honored individuals in the history of motion pictures. She continued to pass off the work of others as her own, was frighteningly insecure, and played politics to the hilt to get ahead. By the end of her career, however, these qualities detracted only slightly from her natural talent and creativity. In interviews with the author, Head dished dirt on the figure flaws of such leading ladies as Bette Davis and Barbara Stanwyck. While these are not household names to today's teens, Hollywood glamour has changed little over time. The loyalty Head received from these stars for making them look so flawless contributed much to her success. Photographs show how well her designs worked. The list of film credits spans more than 50 years and hundreds of movies. Teens with an interest in fashion and film will find this biography fascinating. Jamie Watson, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Sometimes gossipy, at other times straightforward, this biography of movie costume designer Edith Head is best for its sympathetic portrait of an insecure talent trying hard to survive in a den of thieves—Hollywood. Chierichetti (Hollywood Costume Design, 1976; Mitchell Leisen, 1995) certainly knows the business; as a former costumer and long-time acquaintance of Head's, he gives life and vitality to the business of movie fashion. Thanks to his descriptions, we understand the daily feuds and rivalries, the temperaments of actors, and the fussiness of producers and directors. Over her 44-year career with Paramount, Head is shown in all her personalities and in her relationships with Veronica Lake, Ginger Rogers, Elizabeth Taylor, and Bette Davis, among many others. Illustrations and photographs give a snapshot of her Oscar-winning talent; more to the point is the revelation of her longtime friendship with husband Bill Ihnen in a studio system that quickly upended most relationships. Film credits and Oscar nominations/awards appended. Barbara Jacobs Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved