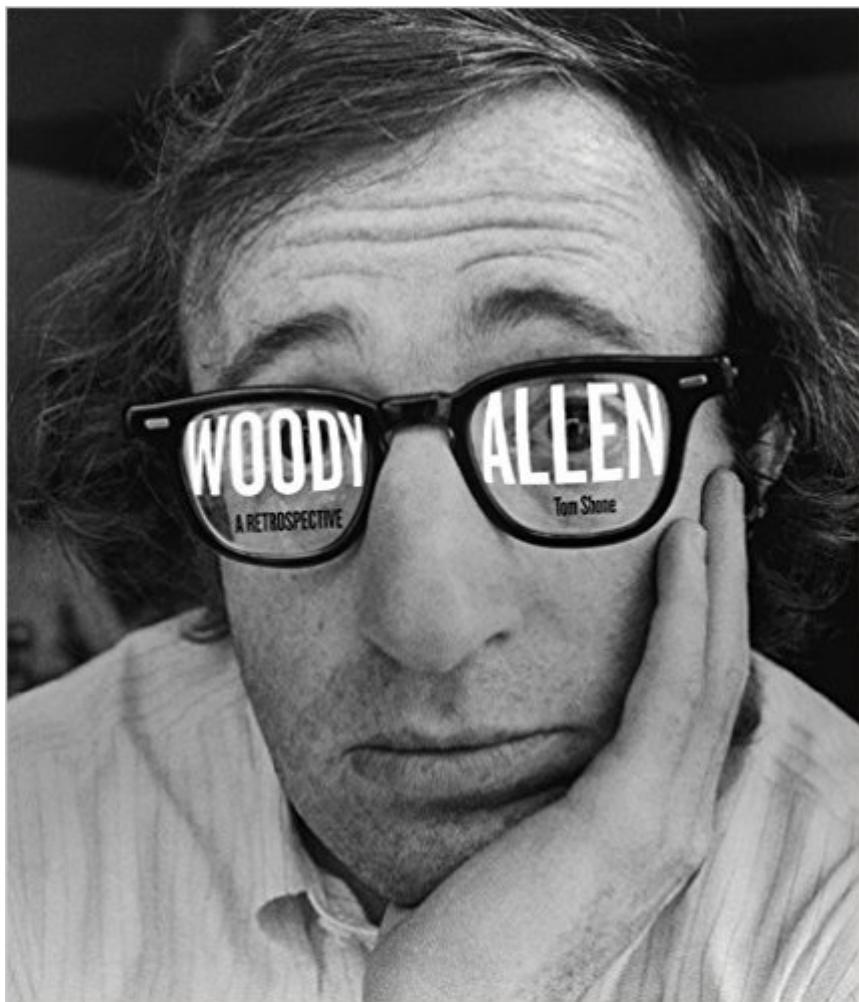


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Woody Allen: A Retrospective



Synopsis

Woody Allen: A Retrospective is the first complete, film-by-film overview of Woody Allen's entire career, up to and including the 2015 release of *Irrational Man*. In this illustrated biography, renowned movie critic Tom Shone traces Allen's entire professional life as an entertainer and director, weaving in archival and original interviews, as well as more than 250 curated photographs, movie stills, and posters. From slapstick films to romantic comedies to introspective character studies and crime thrillers, Allen's output has always been prodigious; with nearly 50 movies to his credit, he's made more or less a film a year since the early 1970s. This fitting tribute to one of the masters of modern cinema covers all of those films, including contemporary classics such as *Annie Hall*, *Manhattan*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, and *Midnight in Paris*, with wit and insight. This is the definitive illustrated monograph on one of the major writer-directors of modern cinema, celebrating Allen's fifty-year career and published to mark Woody Allen's eightieth birthday. With the help of comments contributed by Allen himself, Shone's well-informed commentary makes this book an essential read for Woody Allen fans and film aficionados. "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying." — Woody Allen

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reviewed by C. J. Singh (Berkeley, California). WOODY ALLEN: A RETROSPECTIVE is a profusely illustrated, coffee-table book. As a coffee-table book, it can be guaranteed to start

conversations. I placed it on my coffee table and two of my guests who didn't know each other, immediately began talking about Woody's "Midnight in Paris," which all three of us had seen. One of the guests liked the Hemingway scene as the best; the other preferred the T S Eliot scene. When asked, I said, "Pablo Picasso, the Gypsy visual artist. Did you notice how dark-skinned he was? Gypsies are an ethnic community originating from India." The conversation shifted to other Woody Allen films that were precursors to "Midnight in Paris." We looked up "Purple Rose of Cairo," "Zelig," and "Play It Again, Sam" and took turns reading aloud Tom Shone's essays on these films. The reader of "Play It Again, Sam" added that he recalled Quentin Tarantino acknowledging in an interview that in his film "True Romance" the character of Elvis Presley giving advice was inspired by the Humphrey Bogart character in Woody Allen's "Play It Again, Sam." Over the weekend, I read cover to cover Tom Shone's highly engaging and learned more about Woody Allen's films "especially the ones of his forty-five films I hadn't seen. The book opens with Woody's biography: "A creature of tidy habits and unerring routine, Woody Allen likes to rise at 6:30 a.m. He gets his children out to school, endures a brief spell on the treadmill, then sits down to write at his manual Olympia SM-3 typewriter which was bought when he was sixteen and still works." (page 6). In 1952, during his last year at Mildwood High School, Woody Allen daily routine was as follows.

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