



The Gag Man: Clyde Bruckman and the Birth of Film Comedy

By Matthew Dessem

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"Wonderfully engaging."—*The New Republic*

A key figure of early cinema, Clyde Bruckman collaborated with film comedy icons like Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd, but his story has been relegated to a footnote. This book shines light on his life and an important corner of Hollywood history.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This is much more than the long overdue discovery of Clyde Bruckman and the origins of film comedy. This is a deep insight into the vortex of laughter and death." - Werner Herzog (director of Grizzly Man and Aguirre, The Wrath of God) "Matthew Dessem takes a detour off Sunset Boulevard to recover from the shadows one of Hollywood's forgotten men. In Dessem's masterful telling the quest for Clyde Bruckman proceeds from two-reel farce to too-real tragedy with the fateful logic of a detective story. A marvelous job of research and reporting - I couldn't put it down." - Lem Dobbs (screenwriter of Haywire and The Limey)

About the Author

Matthew Dessem's writing has appeared in The Dissolve, Slate, GOOD Magazine and elsewhere. He can be found on Twitter @matthewdessem. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

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