

Duke: The Life and Image of John Wayne

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DUKE: THE LIFE AND IMAGE OF JOHN WAYNE



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University of Oklahoma Press, United States, 2001. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New edition. 234 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Almost two decades after his death, John Wayne is still America s favorite movie star. More than an actor, Wayne is a cultural icon whose stature seems to grow with the passage of time. In this illuminating biography, Ronald L. Davis focuses on Wayne s human side, portraying a complex personality defined by frailty and insecurity as well as by courage and strength.Davis traces Wayne s story from its beginnings in Winterset, lowa, to his death in 1979. This is not a story of instant fame: only after a decade in budget westerns did Wayne receive serious consideration, for his performance in John Ford s 1939 film Stagecoach. From that point on, his skills and popularity grew as he appeared in such classics as Fort Apache, Red River, She Wore a Yellow Ribbon, The Quiet Man, The Searches, The Man who Shot Liberty Valance, and True Grit. A man s ideal more than a woman s, Wayne earned his popularity without becoming either a great actor or a sex symbol. In all his films, whatever the character, John Wayne portrayed John Wayne, a persona he created for himself: the tough, gritty loner whose mission was to uphold the frontier s--and the nation s--traditional values.To depict the different facets of Wayne s life and career, Davis draws on a range of primary and secondary sources, most notably exclusive interviews with the people who knew Wayne well, including the actor s costar Maureen O Hara and his widow, Pilar Wayne. The result is a well-balanced, highly engaging portrait of a man whose private identity was eventually overshadowed by his screen persona--until he came to represent America itself.

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