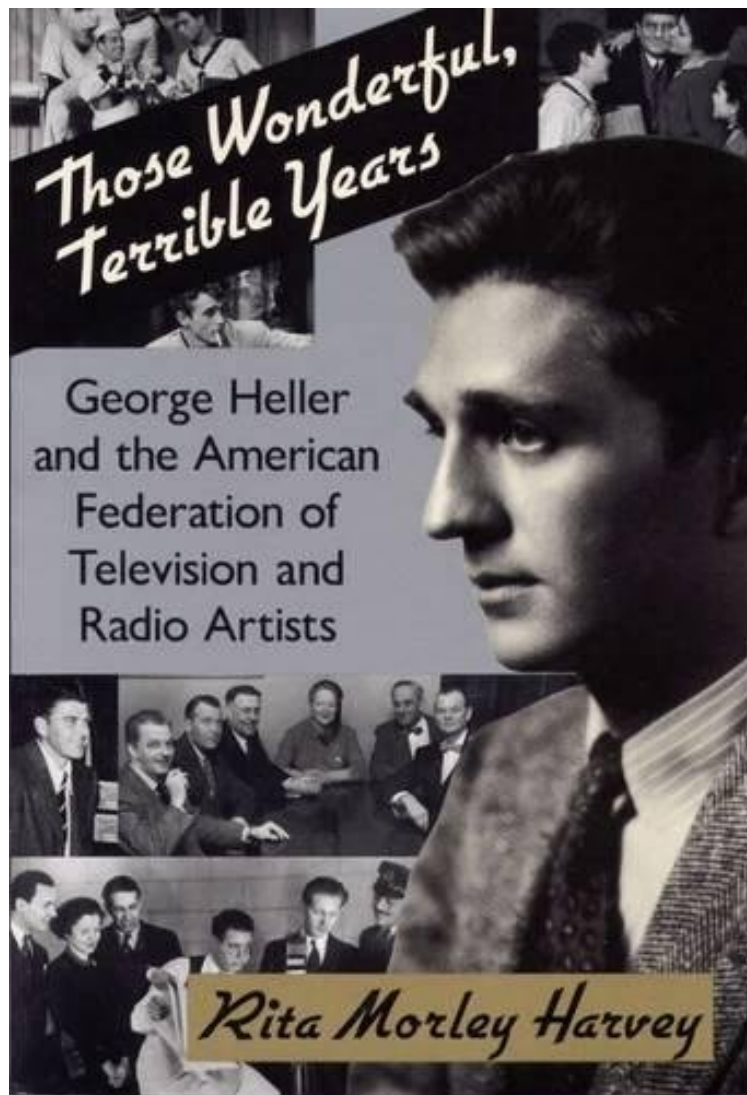


[Get free] Those Wonderful, Terrible Years: George Heller and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

Those Wonderful, Terrible Years: George Heller and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

Rita Morley Harvey

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1833948 in Books Southern Illinois University Press 1996-06-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .75 x 6.131, 1.07 #File Name: 0809320231272 pages | File size: 75.Mb

Rita Morley Harvey : Those Wonderful, Terrible Years: George Heller and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Those Wonderful, Terrible Years: George Heller and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. mitchnyBy A CustomerI am a member of AFTRA and I think this book surprised the heck out of me. I thought it might be a dry telling of the union's history. But no, Ms. Harvey really

knows how to tell an engaging tale out of the story of this entertainment union. It really is a page turner, with passages about the Black-listing era that were exciting, depressing and had real echoes and lessons for today. I know Ms. Harvey had access to all of AFTRAs' minutes, and this book reflects the inside story...which is sometimes shocking in its facts. This book is excellent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good luck. By Careful Consumer I'm an officer of heritage AFTRA in Los Angeles, and for such an important story I still found it a tedious read. Good luck. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Required Reading By Thomas For any professional actor interested in the history of their union(s). Well-written, concerning one of the progressive founders of our unions.

This is the story of George Heller the glamour boy of the trade union movement and his actor colleagues Philip Loeb, Sam Jaffe, and Albert (Van) Dekker. It is also the story of the formation and growth of AFRA (the American Federation of Radio Artists) and its later incarnation AFTRA (the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists). Always prominent in Rita Morley Harvey's account of what happened to the union, to its members, and to Heller and his friends are the shadows cast by the radical right in government and those willing to help in its dirty work. The story of AFTRA begins during the Great Depression, a time of extraordinary trust and camaraderie as well as a time of tremendous hardship. But as American life stretched into the 1950s and the Golden Age of television, the radio and television industry was beset by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy and all that he came to represent. While many would like to forget the McCarthy era, Harvey insists that this was a "time of stunning consequence in the lives of George Heller and his friends, in the lives of hundreds of others as well, all good, decent citizens, all once-busy, much-admired radio and television performers. Here was a time that bred such bitterness, such hatred brother to brother, local to local that it would take more than a generation to put it to rest." Finding little published material on AFTRA, Harvey has based her biography on interviews with Heller's friends and detractors, accounts in the press of the day, and old union records. "Surprisingly," she notes, "it was in that least likely place, the minutes of meetings darkened now with age, that the real story the compelling, sometimes amusing and, often, tragic story came to life." This spirited biography of George Heller also serves as an accessible inside history of the Golden Age of radio and television through its glory days and its era of shame McCarthyism and political blacklisting.

"What a marvelous character George Heller must have been! And what a time! The middle of the Great Depression when working people in all parts of the country came together to help one another, to protect one another. When a five-dollar-a-show radio performer rubbed elbows with the great stars of the day Eddie Cantor, Jack Benny, Ed Wynn, Rudy Vallee, and so many others to create a union in broadcasting." Rita Morley Harvey, from the Preface