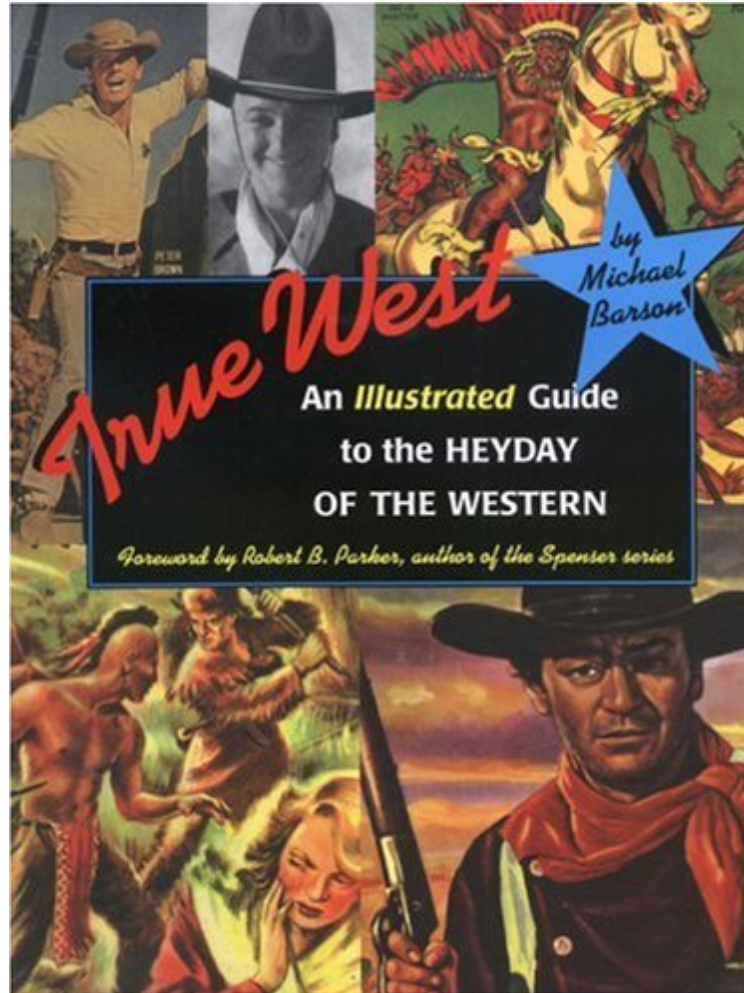


(Mobile book) True West: An Illustrated Guide to the Heyday of the Western

True West: An Illustrated Guide to the Heyday of the Western

Michael Barson

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Michael Barson : True West: An Illustrated Guide to the Heyday of the Western before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised True West: An Illustrated Guide to the Heyday of the Western:

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. A Fun Resource For Western Fans By TMStyles "True West" taps into that "little boy" that still lives somewhere deep within us--the youngster who grew up on old western movies, comic books, and television shows. It has been theorized that we never outgrow our love for our western heroes, we just hide that love a little better as we age. Grab this book, relax a bit, and allow yourself to relive many of your childhood memories--the older, the better. "True West" doesn't break much new ground nor enter into controversial discussions of western lore; indeed, its attraction is the simplistic honesty of bringing old memories back to life through hundreds of old western movie posters, splash pages, comic books, television shows, novels, and sheet music.

Barson does present brief synopses of 101 "great western films" and while you can quibble about his selections, they are fun to read, nevertheless. Equally appealing for this reader was the discussion of the rise and fall of the television western with a fun emphasis on the Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and Hopalong Cassidy rivalry for the affection of the nation's youngsters. Remember all the paraphernalia the marketers poured onto us--magic decoder rings, special lunch pails, coonskin caps, and toy pistol sets---all in the name of one of our revered cowboy heroes? Barson also makes a legitimate, although superficial, attempt to discuss great western writers and the works they produced as well as a look into western music and western movie/television theme songs. All in all, this compilation of western memorabilia is just fun, memory-inducing, fodder for the parent or grandparent who still remembers, Hoppy and Roy, Maverick, Bonanza, and High Noon. Come back to a simpler age when men were cowboys and the west was still untamed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By john davis nice book 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So So. By Alan L Just ok. Most of the pictures were lobby cards and not photos. Most of the stories were same as have been told many times. Read through it over a cup of coffee and a donut.

Return with us to yesteryear, when cowboys were cowboys and gunslingers lurked around every corner. Today that colorful period continues to resonate in the collective imagination of red-blooded Americans everywhere and now we have True West, which illustrates, in hundreds of full-color illustrations, how America's mass media stamped that vision so indelibly on our collective unconscious over the past century, into today. Boasting hundreds of rare and colorful movie posters, pulp magazines, television memorabilia, advertisements, paperback books, record album jackets, toys, and clothing, True West covers such hugely popular television series as Gunsmoke, The Lone Ranger, and Bonanza, along with classic Western novels, including Shane, The Searchers, Welcome to Hard Times and that epic of all epics, Lonesome Dove. True West bows to the icons who ruled the silver screen Tom Mix, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, John Wayne, and Clint Eastwood, to name a few, while offering up such indelible movie triumphs as Red River, The Searchers, Hud, The Wild Bunch, and Unforgiven. It also showcases the great Western comic books and comic strips Colt, Red Ryder, Straight Arrow, and Jonah Hex along with all those nifty toys and other ephemera that helped link kids to celluloid heroes like Hopalong Cassidy, Roy and Dale, and the ubiquitous Gene Autry. And what would the Wild West be without an accompanying soundtrack? True West reproduces the sublime album covers and sheet music that served up classic odes like Streets of Laredo and Cool Water, narrative ballads like El Paso (with Marty Robbins bedecked in his black gunfighter togs on the cover!), and High Noon.

About the Author Michael Barson has a Ph.D. in American Culture, and is the author of more than a dozen celebrations of American popular culture, including Better Dead Than Red!, Teenage Confidential, and Lost, Lonely Vicious. He has contributed articles to Entertainment Weekly and American Film, and to such NPR shows as Morning Edition and Fresh Air. Barson grew up in Eisenhower-era Massachusetts, but despite that is well aware how good a Shiner Bock on ice can taste.