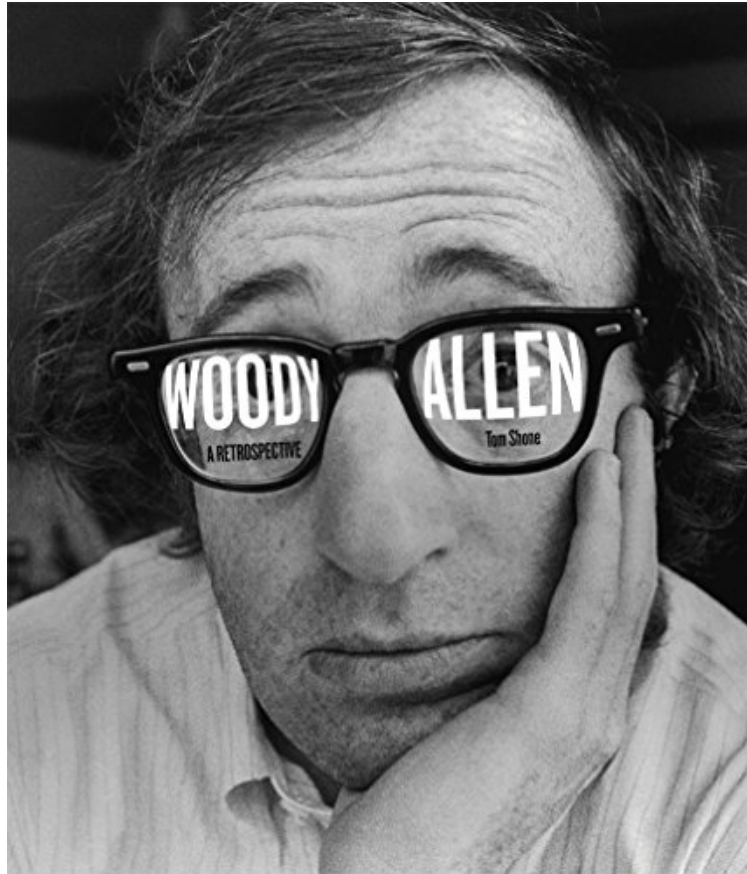


[Download pdf] Woody Allen: A Retrospective

## Woody Allen: A Retrospective

*Tom Shone*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



#507458 in Books Shone Tom 2015-10-20 2015-10-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 12.00 x 1.25 x 10.25l, .0 #File Name: 1419717944288 pagesWoody Allen A Retrospective | File size: 61.Mb

**Tom Shone : Woody Allen: A Retrospective** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Woody Allen: A Retrospective:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Coffee-Table BookBy Dr. C. J. Singh.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 didnt know each other, immediately began talking about Woodys 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 Shones 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 Allens 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's daily routine was as follows. He would get out of school at one o'clock, head straight for the subway station and catch the BMT train from Flatbush, in Brooklyn, over the Manhattan Bridge to Sixteenth Street and Fifth Avenue, all the while writing jokes with a pencil. It was always crowded and Allen would have to straphang, but he would scribble away, and by the time he got to Manhattan he'd have at least twenty-five jokes. For this he was paid \$20 a week. There's nothing to it, he said. He was sixteen (p. 15). Shone cites couple jokes: The happiest man I know has a cigarette lighter and a wife and they both work. Says Woody Allen: A hypocrite is a guy who writes a book on atheism, and prays it sells. (p. 15). The biographical pages in Shone's book are few compared with the biographies by Eric Lax and by David Evanier. However, the few pages vividly describe the dismissive attitudes of Mel Brooks's toward Woody as "a red-haired rat" and of Les Gelbert's as Woody Allen "looked to be all of six years old. His previous writing credit, I assumed must have been learning the alphabet. He seemed so fragile, a tadpole in horn rims" (pages 19-20). In contrast, it's refreshing to read the wonderfully supportive role of agents Jack Rollins and his partner Charles Joffe to help develop Woody Allen as a stand-up comedian. "Allen pleaded with them to let him quit: 'I'm not funny, I'm not a comic, I can't do this, I hate it' and Rollins would always quietly remonstrate with him, 'Give it a little time' Allen almost quit five or six times" (p. 21). I compared Shone's analyses of Woody's film *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, one of my favorites, with two other books: *Woody Allen on Woody Allen: In Conversation with Stig Bjorkman* (published in 2004) and *Woody: The Biography* by David Evanier (published in 2015). Their analyses are considerably more detailed; Shone's is compact and beautifully illustrated with color photos. As an up-to-date coffee-table book that includes brief essays on each of Allen's forty-five films including the most recent "Irrational Man," it merits five stars. Yeah, five shining stars for Mr. Shine, oops, Mr. Shone. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Woody, heavy reading! By Steve Craddock I found the book lucid and easy to read. It is an affectionate but by no means a sycophantic view of Woody. He is pretty critical of some of the ill-starred 'serious' films like 'Interiors'. I found the book very physically heavy, too heavy to balance for reading in bed so I downloaded the Kindle version of it and read the text on that device, looking at the pictures later, sitting at a table. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Kimberly Noone Excellent gift!!!

*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

Shone's prose has a beauty of its own, abounding in nonchalantly exquisite turns of phrase: I especially love his description of actress Dianne Wiest's face as [seeming] always to photograph in soft focus. Allen may not read criticism, but the writer in him would surely approve.