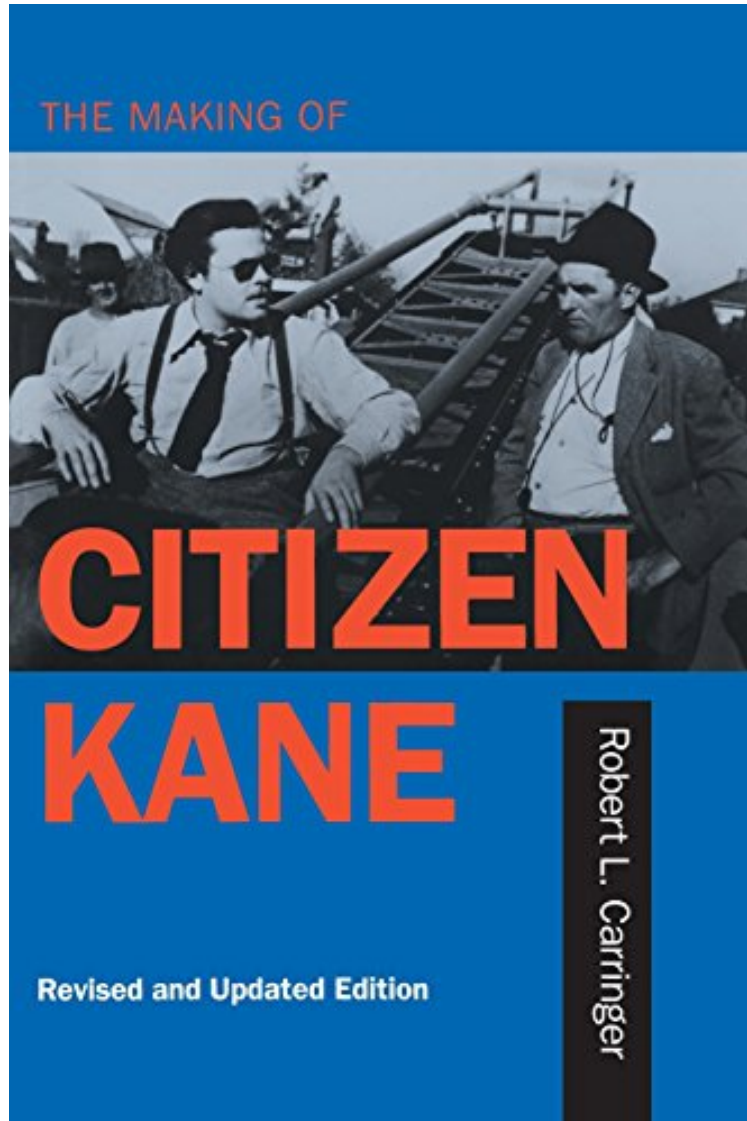


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The Making of Citizen Kane, Revised edition

Robert L. Carringer

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Robert L. Carringer : The Making of Citizen Kane, Revised edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of Citizen Kane, Revised edition:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Must-read for fans of the film and Welles, though Carringer's thesis is debatable By Muzzlehatch This is certainly a must-read for anybody interested in the film; rather than a day-by-day, action-by-action accounting of the filming process (which would make for a vastly longer book, and a very tedious one for all but the most die-hard), Carringer has produced a very readable yet reasonably technical overview of how

Orson Welles came to the project in the first place and how the collaborations between the then 25-year-old cinema neophyte and several much more experienced collaborators (chiefly composer Bernard Herrmann, cinematographer Gregg Toland, screenwriter Herman J. Mankiewicz and art director Perry Ferguson) helped to result in one of the greatest of all Hollywood films. This is no simple accounting of what these talents contributed, though; Carringer has a thesis, that Welles produced his greatest work while in collaboration with a cadre of equals -- that in fact, far from the product of an all-seeing auteur, *Citizen Kane* is a summation of the Hollywood studio system, and the most completely successful of the director's films as a result. His short discussion of the problems with the director's second film, "The Magnificent Ambersons" shows his opinion even more blatantly; it's one I happen to disagree with, as I value Welles' later independent productions just as highly as *Kane*, but he does make his points with some conviction, and in any case given that his focus is here is otherwise almost entirely on "*Kane*" and the discarded projects that came before it, not worth getting into. At any rate, worth the read for anyone interested in the director or in how big studio productions developed in the "Golden Age."

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. For the more serious film studio and *Kane* fan: By Martin Turnbull If you're looking for a glossy account of the making of "*Citizen Kane*" with lots of pictures, backstage anecdotes, gossip, this book probably isn't what you're looking for. It's a fairly serious study of what many people consider to be the best movie ever made. I happen to be one of those people so, for me, I drank in every step by step account of what led up to the making, what happened during the making, and--perhaps the most interesting--what happened after it was released. Highly recommended.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Easily the best book about *Citizen Kane*! By Cubist Carringer's exhaustive tome on the making of Orson Welles' signature film covers all the bases: from its rocky road to inception (covering Welles' fascinating attempt to adapt Conrad's *HEART OF DARKNESS* into a movie) to every conceivable aspect of the production and post-production. This is required reading for any Welles fan and an invaluable tool for anybody who has to write an essay on *CITIZEN KANE*. Carringer's writing style is engaging and eloquent without being too academic. He doesn't bombard the reader with a million esoteric film terms but instead instills his prose with an infectious passion for his subject. Reading this book will make you want to re-discover *KANE* all over again -- which is what a good film book should do! This is a great companion book with the awesome two-DVD set of *KANE* that was released a little while ago.

Citizen Kane, widely considered the greatest film ever made, continues to fascinate critics and historians as well as filmgoers. While credit for its genius has traditionally been attributed solely to its director, Orson Welles, Carringer's pioneering study documents the shared creative achievements of Welles and his principal collaborators. *The Making of Citizen Kane*, copiously illustrated with rare photographs and production documents, also provides an in-depth view of the operations of the Hollywood studio system. This new edition includes a revised preface and overview of criticism, an updated chronology of the film's reception history, a reconsideration of the locus of responsibility of Welles's ill-fated *The Magnificent Ambersons*, and new photographs.

Ever since Pauline Kael wrote her controversial essay "Raising Kane" (available in print in her omnibus collection *For Keeps*), film fans and scholars have debated the "authorship" of *Citizen Kane*. Most audiences and critics agree that it is one of the greatest American movies, but Kael claimed that the genius behind *Kane* was not writer-director-producer-actor Orson Welles, but cocreator Herman Mankiewicz. Others attribute the film's power to the influence and contributions of John Houseman or the incredible innovations of cinematographer Gregg Toland. In this superbly researched book, Robert Carringer proves conclusively that *Kane* is not the product of any individual artist, but the collective work of a brilliant team working under Welles's supervision. Without Mankiewicz, Toland, and the talented designers and technicians who worked on the film, *Kane* could never have become what it is. As Carringer covers each step of the film's production, from conception to final release, he leads readers through the enormously complex process of making a great movie. He also provides an introductory chapter about an unfiled project Welles worked on before *Kane*, an adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. In his concluding chapter on *The Magnificent Ambersons*, Welles's follow-up to *Kane*, Carringer argues that the latter film suffered precisely because its collaborators failed to achieve the artistic harmony that had made *Kane* so successful. --Raphael Shargel

From *Library Journal* It seems that the moviegoing public just can't get enough of Orson Welles and *Citizen Kane* (see Video, this issue, p. 98). Carringer's 1985 volume offers a nuts-and-bolts description of *Kane*'s production. This revised and updated edition has been enlarged to include a new preface, new photos, and a discussion of Welles's second feature, *The Magnificent Ambersons*. Though volumes on Orson and *Kane* abound, this "is well researched and generally well written" (LJ 7/85). Considering *Kane*'s importance to American film, this is essential for all movie collections. If you're talking movies, you're talking *Kane*. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Carringer's meticulous technical study . . . not only reminds us of why we want to read about Welles in the first place, but comes closer to the core of the man than either of the biographies." --"Village Voice"