



Charles Walters: The Director Who Made Hollywood Dance (Screen Classics)

Brent Phillips

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From the trolley scene in *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944) to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers's last dance on the silver screen (*The Barkleys of Broadway*, 1949) to Judy Garland's timeless, tuxedo-clad performance of "Get Happy" (*Summer Stock*, 1950), Charles Walters staged the iconic musical sequences of Hollywood's golden age. During his career, this Academy Award--nominated director and choreographer showcased the talents of stars such as Gene Kelly, Doris Day, Debbie Reynolds, and Frank Sinatra. However, despite his many critical and commercial triumphs, Walters's name often goes unrecognized today.

In the first full-length biography of Walters, Brent Phillips chronicles the artist's career, from his days as a featured Broadway performer and protégé of theater legend Robert Alton to his successes at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. He takes readers behind the scenes of many of the studio's most beloved musicals, including *Easter Parade* (1948), *Lili* (1953), *High Society* (1956), and *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* (1964). In addition, Phillips recounts Walters's associations with Lucille Ball, Joan Crawford, and Gloria Swanson, examines the director's uncredited work on several films, including the blockbuster *Gigi* (1958), and discusses his contributions to musical theater and American popular culture.

This revealing book also considers Walters's personal life and explores how he navigated the industry as an openly gay man. Drawing on unpublished oral histories, correspondence, and new interviews, this biography offers an entertaining and important new look at an exciting era in Hollywood history.

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