



Showstoppers: Busby Berkeley and the Tradition of Spectacle

Martin Rubin

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The first major analyses of Busby Berkeley's career on stage and screen. *Showstoppers* emphasizes his relationship to a colorful, somewhat disreputable tradition of American popular entertainment: that of P.T. Barnum, minstrel shows, vaudeville, Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show, burlesque, and the Ziegfeld Follies. Rubin shows how Berkeley absorbed the declining theatrical tradition during his years as a Broadway dance director and then transferred it to the new genre of the early movie musical. With lively prose and engaging photographs, *Showstoppers* explores new ways of looking at Busby Berkeley, at the musical genre, and at individual film.

(Jerome Delamater, Hollywood Musical)

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