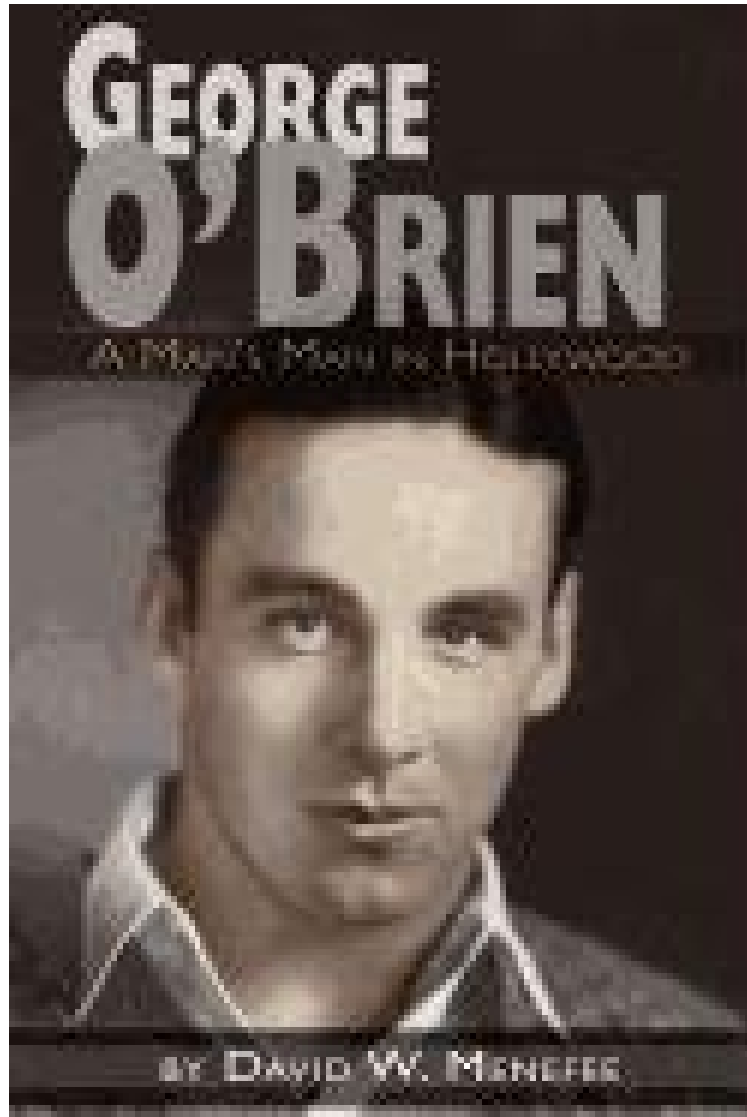


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## George O'Brien - A Man's Man in Hollywood

*David W. Menefee*

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**David W. Menefee : George O'Brien - A Man's Man in Hollywood** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised George O'Brien - A Man's Man in Hollywood:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Poorly written By Eugene M Yayoshi No continuity, the author drops in paragraphs with no explanation or reference. He gives information but does not state details that would give background to his statements. He writes George O'Brien's father was a city engineer in San Francisco then after the 1906 earthquake he becomes a policeman. No real details why he changed professions. He also gives incorrect

information, at one point he describes the subject riding in a jeep during World War I, while the vehicle was not designed until 1940. He states George O'Brien was awarded the Silver Star for action in World War I, while again, the decoration was not issued until World War II. The only value of this book is the filmography. George O'Brien deserves a much better biography to describe his career in Hollywood. I would not recommend this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By cecelia salvator I'VE BEEN A FAN OF MR. O'BRIEN WHEN I SAW HIM IN DANIEL BOONE A MOVIE SHOWN ON TELEVISION 9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Fair Treatment For A Forgotten Star By R PRIUS I was delighted that someone has finally taken on George O'Brien, one of the greatest stars that never lived up to his initial promise. Let me explain. My first conscious introduction to George was a viewing of SUNRISE. I was stunned by his performance, albeit a silent one. At a time when great acting was equated by an actor's physicality and expression, this man definitely had it all. I started digging up anything I could find about George and realized I had a major disconnect. George was also the handsome actor whose old cowboy movies I watched on tv as a kid. I couldn't understand how a person with such undeniable charisma could evolve into a Saturday matinee idol. And so began my not altogether successful odyssey to find George O'Brien. And now thanks to David Menefee, someone has finally put all the bits and pieces together and completed the puzzle. While most of the information provided was not new to me as a diehard O'Brien fan, the author did an admirable job researching his subject by accessing surviving family members and friends. Menefee fleshed out his subject and wrote a couple of riveting chapters concerning the 1906 San Francisco earthquake based on O'Brien's recollections as well as historical accounts of the event and seamlessly merged the two. He also wisely avoided innuendo regarding O'Brien's so-called racy love affair with frequent co-star Olive Borden and rumors re: O'Brien's sexuality. From what I've been able to determine there is little to no evidence to support either. Where the book falls flat are sparse details concerning his only wife and his family. However, in fairness to Menefee I have to assume that this project may have begun after the death of author Darcy O'Brien in 1998. Two interesting segments of this book were a vintage photo gallery and a filmography. While Sunrise might represent O'Brien's most substantial contribution to the history of film, he performed admirably in other films as well and was not a one film wonder.

George O'Brien thrills audiences today with his signature role in F. W. Murnau's Sunrise, Michael Curtiz' Noah's Ark, and John Ford's The Iron Horse, The Blue Eagle, Salute, The Seas Beneath, Fort Apache, and Cheyenne Autumn. He was one of America's most beloved film stars. His on-screen heroics were more than matched by his real life bravery. For the first time, the story is told about how he survived the great 1906 San Francisco earthquake as a seven-year old to grow up a superb athlete, a decorated hero in World War One, and a stunt double for film idol Rudolph Valentino. O'Brien was one of hundreds working as an assistant cameraman, extra, and bit player when he was plucked from obscurity to head the cast of John Ford's epic, The Iron Horse. He became a star overnight. O'Brien's rise to the top ranks of silent films reached sublime proportions when F. W. Murnau featured him in the classic romance, Sunrise. Warner Bros. plunged him into one of the first talking pictures when director Michael Curtiz converted his silent Noah's Ark epic into sound. Many men, women, and animals were injured during the climatic flood scenes, but O'Brien lived through the deluge to become a top star for twenty years. In the 1940s, O'Brien walked away from the pinnacle of stardom to answer the call to arms and re-enlist when American entered World War Two. He actively fought in several island invasions, and when the war ended, he returned only to find that a new generation of filmgoers had grown up never having seen him in a motion picture. He succeeded with a modest comeback, but left Hollywood a second time to assist with military conflicts in Korea. When he returned to civilian life again, he briefly pioneered in early television work and lived to enjoy retrospectives of his films during the 1970s and 1980s. Discover his fascinating life in George O'Brien: A Man's Man in Hollywood. The richly researched work draws from hundreds of sources, including major archives and the George O'Brien Estate. Enjoy hundreds of photos and illustrations, many unseen for the past eighty years. The book reveals how he was received in his time and his role in the development of motion pictures from silent to sound. George appeared in more than a hundred credited and uncredited films, and this book reveals them with a richly researched biography, an extensive Filmography, rare portraits, posters, and lobby cards that capture the glamour of Hollywood's Golden Era.

About the Author David W. Menefee is an American author. His writing career began as a writer and marketing representative for the Dallas Times Herald and the Dallas Morning News. David struck out on his own as a freelance writer, succeeding with Sarah Bernhardt: In the Theater, Film and Sound Recordings, The First Female Stars: Women of the Silent Era, and The First Male Stars: Men of the Silent Era. As an esteemed film historian, his Richard Barthelmess: A Life in Pictures was named one of the Top 10 Books of the Year by the San Francisco Examiner. In 2010, George O'Brien: A Man's Man in Hollywood, and "Otay!" The Billy "Buckwheat" Thomas Story were popular hits. In 2011 his Wally: The True Wallace Reid Story was nominated for a 2011 Pulitzer Prize. David's other popular literary works include The Remarkable Mr. Messing, Brothers of the Storm, Charlie O'Doone's Second Chance and Other Stories, The Rise and Fall of Lou-Tellegen, the Margot Cranston mystery series, Falling Stars: 10 Who Tried to be a Movie Star, and Sarah Bernhardt, Her Films, Her Recordings. David also works as a ghost writer, screenwriter,

and book editor. He lives in Dallas, Texas, USA.