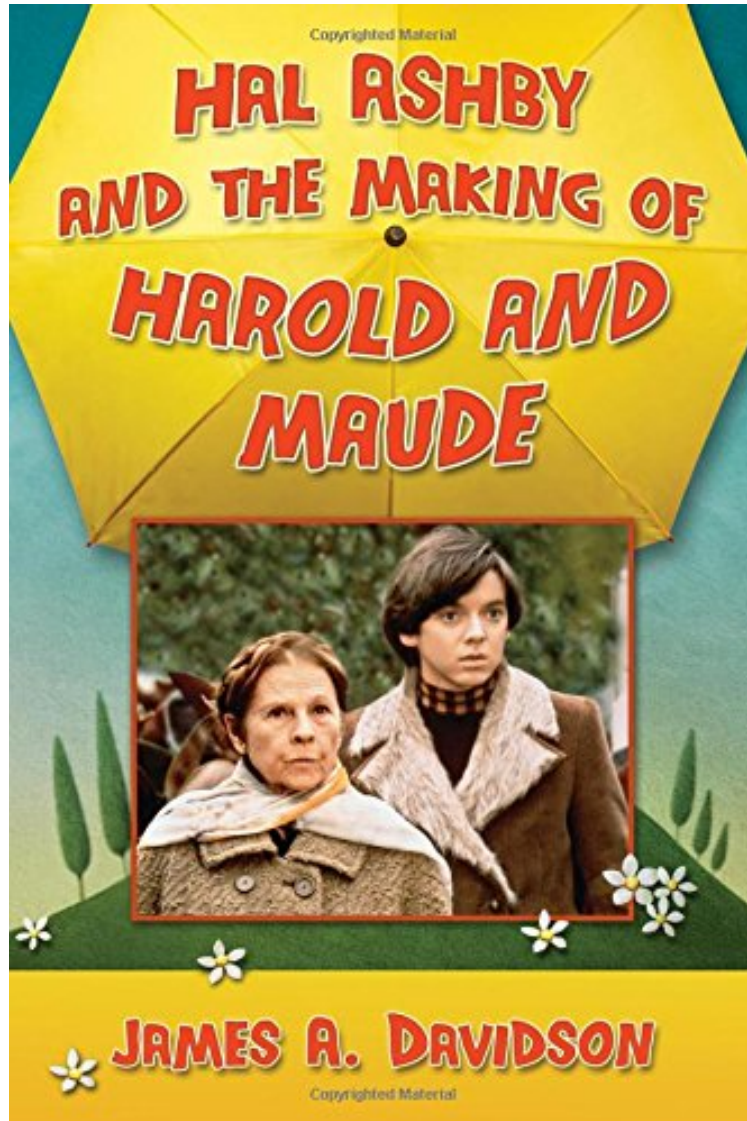


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Hal Ashby and the Making of Harold and Maude

James A. Davidson

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#1637213 in Books 2016-01-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 6.001, .0 #File Name: 1476663211224 pages | File size: 73.Mb

James A. Davidson : Hal Ashby and the Making of Harold and Maude before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hal Ashby and the Making of Harold and Maude:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Every Harold and Maude Fan Must Read By Jennifer Anderson Being a fan of the Movie Harold and Maude for many years and watching it several times, I thought I knew a lot about this movie. James A. Davidson's book taught me so much. This book is entertaining, and being from the Bay Area I loved reading every word of it. I felt as if I was learning about my own friends. Reading about how the scenes in the movie

were made, the background stories, the personalities of Ashby et. al. I just finished the book and now I am ready to watch the movie again through knowledgeable eyes. I know it will make it that much more fun to watch. Well, written and flowing. A great read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, thoroughly researched book By Bruce Rheins There are so many great films from the 70s that younger people may have overlooked; "Harold and Maude" is among the top. And this book by James A. Davidson reinforces why; director Hal Ashby and writer Colin Higgins perfectly captured the alienation and confusion of the times, in a hilarious, yet poignant film. Davidson's thorough research helps show why Ashby was so underrated as a director; and there are so many details I don't think anyone has heard before; Elton John as one of the first choices to play Harold? 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I wish the book had more interviews and funny stories, The problem is nearly everyone who worked ... By The Brian I wish the book had more interviews and funny stories, The problem is nearly everyone who worked on the film is dead. I'm glad I read it, I loved the movie when it came out. I learned a lot about it, I just wish it had more stories.

The original script was sold to a major Hollywood studio virtually overnight; the screenwriter was working as a pool boy and driver for the producer; the director was considered an "acid freak" by the studio heads; the star was a 74-year old actress who didn't know how to drive a car. The film flopped upon release and later became one of the great cult successes of all time. This is the fascinating, never before told story of the making of Harold and Maude, shot guerrilla-style in the San Francisco Bay Area by a crew of "New Hollywood" filmmakers in the winter of 1971.

"The story behind the film is engagingly told"--The Huffington Post/ "the well-researched back story of the unlikely 1971 cult classic"--Acting Solo; "the story behind the film is engagingly told"--The Huffington Post. About the Author James A. Davidson has written a number of articles for Images Film Journal and Taste of Cinema and is co-owner of Second Sight Video Multimedia. He lives in Martinez, California.