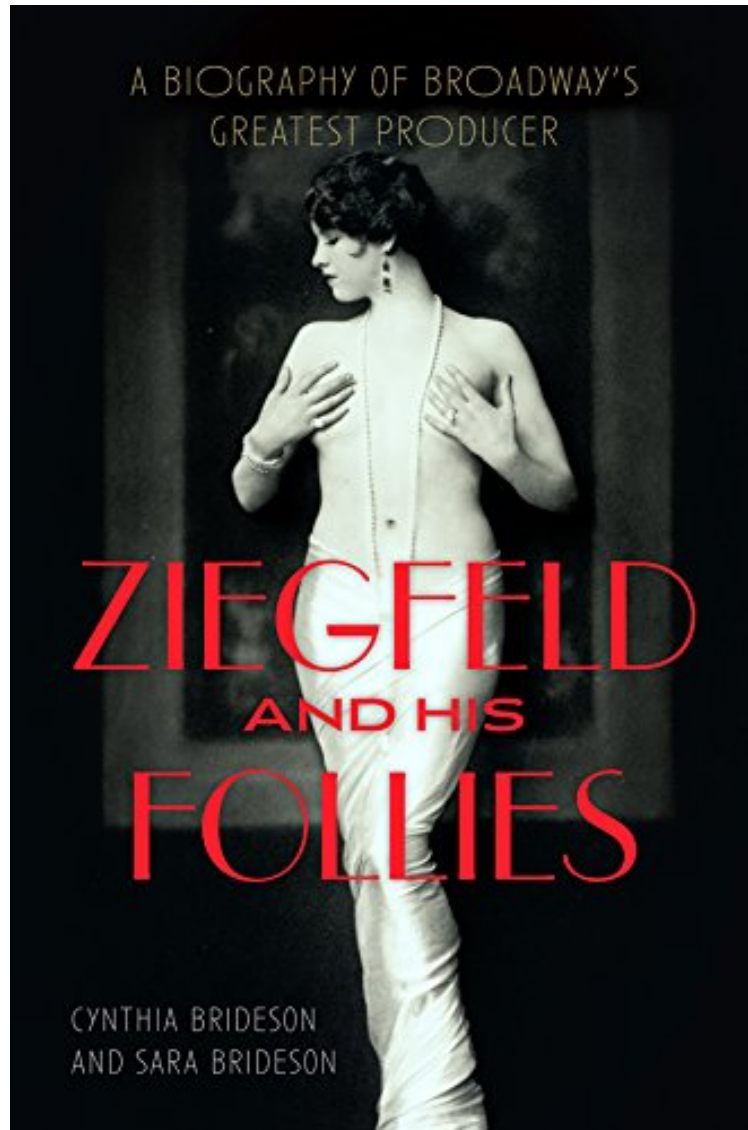


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## Ziegfeld and His Follies: A Biography of Broadway's Greatest Producer (Screen Classics)

*Cynthia Brideson, Sara Brideson*

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**Cynthia Brideson, Sara Brideson : Ziegfeld and His Follies: A Biography of Broadway's Greatest Producer (Screen Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ziegfeld and His Follies: A Biography of Broadway's Greatest Producer (Screen Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Glorifying the American GirlBy Bill EmblomI took a chance on this book being only vaguely familiar with Florenz Ziegfeld but having heard more of several of the main characters in the book such as Eddie Cantor, Wil Rogers, Irving Berlin, W. C. Fields, in addition to several of the songs that

materialized from Ziegfeld's Broadway plays and was pleasantly surprised. The two sister authors did a magnificent job in researching the life of Ziegfeld who glorified the American girl. Ziegfeld considered Eddie Cantor the "son" he never had. He along with Wil Rogers were his closest confidants. W. C. Fields, on the other hand, was looked upon with scorn by Ziegfeld mainly due to his slovenly habits. Ziegfeld had a weakness for "his girls" and married three times with Anna Held, Lillian Lorraine, and finally Billie Burke being his three wives. Each one had their own insecurities regarding Ziegfeld's faithfulness since he was always in contact with lovelies in his work. Ziegfeld could be a difficult taskmaster in his work but also reclusive. Many of the sixteen or seventeen years old girls he hired became disillusioned with life by age twenty finding themselves out of work when they expected to marry and have a lifetime of partying. Ziegfeld went through money as fast as he made it and had a weakness for gambling and spending lavishly on costumes for his theatrical productions. He had a phobia regarding the passage of time and detested clocks and wilted flowers which reminded him of his inability to do anything about it. Several of the New York City landmarks that graced Broadway during Ziegfeld's day no longer remain but as long as plays take place on The Great White Way there will always remain memories of Florenz Ziegfeld and his contributions to American entertainment.

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Intriguing, intimate, and extremely well written! By holly myler Intriguing, intimate, and extremely well written! The reader gets a broad look into the lives of Ziegfeld and his follies capturing not only the interest of early theater and film fans but also those who are interested in human nature and history posed in turn of the century American culture. I appreciate the equal attention the authors give to the female players in Ziegfeld's world emphasizing their importance and influence on his success. Included in this beautifully bound biography is an extensive collection of photos that are as stunning as the gorgeous cover. It's a book you will find yourself saying as you read, "just one more page, just one more page." This book is accessible for all readers both casual and academic, definitely a fine addition to your library!

10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A standing ovation for Ziegfeld and His Follies By CJS It is rare to read a book that transports you back in time but that is what the authors did on this well researched biography on Florenz Ziegfeld and his Follies. Not only did you go through the planning of each show but you learned about other notables of the era including Anna Held, Eddie Cantor, Will Rogers, Fanny Brice, Marilyn Miller, and so many others. Ziegfeld's relation with his wives (Anna Held) and especially Billie Burke were examined in detail as well as his gambling habit and other idiosyncrasies. There were many quotes from Ziegfeld's daughter as well as those who knew and worked with him. The book also explored Ziegfeld's influence over the decades since his death including an examination of the films The Great Ziegfeld, Ziegfeld Follies, Funny Girl, Funny Lady as well as various Broadway shows. However, the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, which really maintained the Ziegfeld tradition with the ladies in the fantastic costumes coming down the stairs, was not mentioned. There were numerous photographs and an thorough list of shows produced and co-produced by Ziegfeld. The authors did an excellent job of providing follow-up regarding what happened to those mentioned in the book who worked or were particularly close to Ziegfeld.

The name Florenz Ziegfeld Jr. (1867--1932) is synonymous with the decadent revues that the legendary impresario produced at the turn of the twentieth century. These extravagant performances were filled with catchy tunes, high-kicking chorus girls, striking costumes, and talented stars such as Eddie Cantor, Fanny Brice, Marilyn Miller, W. C. Fields, and Will Rogers. After the success of his Follies, Ziegfeld revolutionized theater performance with the musical Show Boat (1927) and continued making Broadway hits -- including Sally (1920), Rio Rita (1927), and The Three Musketeers (1928) -- several of which were adapted for the silver screen. In this definitive biography, authors Cynthia Brideson and Sara Brideson offer a comprehensive look at both the life and legacy of the famous producer. Drawing on a wide range of sources -- including Ziegfeld's previously unpublished letters to his second wife, Billie Burke (who later played Glinda the Good Witch in The Wizard of Oz), and to his daughter Patricia -- the Bridesons shed new light on this enigmatic man. They provide a lively and well-rounded account of Ziegfeld as a father, a husband, a son, a friend, a lover, and an alternately ruthless and benevolent employer. Lavishly illustrated with over seventy-five images, this meticulously researched book presents an intimate and in-depth portrait of a figure who profoundly changed American entertainment.

"Well written and entertaining, this title gives Ziegfeld his due." Library Journal "Ziegfeld was one of the most important theatrical producers of the early twentieth century, and the Follies (and its Girls) are still remembered today. He had a long-lasting effect not only on Broadway, but on social mores, and this book does a great job over covering that, in a fascinating way. The Bridesons know their stuff." Eve Golden, author of Anna Held and the Birth of Ziegfeld's Broadway "The authors have created a detailed, sweeping narrative of Broadway showman and entrepreneur Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr., both as to his professional rise and fall and the full details of his complex, busy personal life. While there have been books devoted to him before, this new account is quite compelling both in scope and detail, and will certainly be the new definitive biography of the opulent life and times of the great Ziegfeld." James Robert Parish, author of The Hollywood Book of Extravagance: The Totally Infamous, Mostly Disastrous, and Always Compelling Excesses of America's Film and TV Idols "For those with an interest in theatrical history, the new book will

recommend itself as the first detailed biography of Ziegfeld in four decades."Washington Post"Through meticulous research, the authors reveal the fascinating and often contradictory layers that made up this enigmatic man and defined his glamorous times."Library Journal"Ziegfeld and His Follies is the best biography of Ziegfeld. It goes beyond him as an institution and explores the person of Ziegfeld."Washington Book "Ziegfeld's innovation lay in his ability to spot unheralded talent and corral it into gala evenings, in an apotheosis of Americans' love of youth and fun. Ziegfeld turned pretty into beauty and goofy into wit. . . As sisters Cynthia and Sara Brideson observe in Ziegfeld and His Follies, he "gave women an indomitable presence in a male-centric era. . . Even his mistresses were fiery and volatile." . . . The Bridesons have clearly done a great deal of research, and they successfully unveil what can be known of Ziegfeld's personality. Enigmatic and secretive, he sank his identity into his work, leaving little for the analyst to examine."Wall Street Journal"There is much to enjoy in the Bridesons' book, including 76 photographs some of the rare, all of them evocative."Washington Post"[T]he most encompassing book about [Ziegfeld], if not the most engrossing."Bay Area Reporter"The Bridesons have clearly done a great deal of research, and they successfully unveil what can be known of Ziegfeld's personality. Enigmatic and secretive, he sank his identity into his work, leaving little for the analyst to examine."Ethan Mordden, Wall Street Journal"[T]heater-loving sisters Cynthia and Sara Brideson shine fresh and stimulating light on the genius of one of Broadway's greatest impresarios. Rich in research and broad in perspective, the Bridesons' book frames the classic revue era of the New York stage with a reverential but honest approach to Florenz Ziegfeld's extraordinary personality and career."Examiner.com"The Bridesons' is the first scholarly [book], offering to theater historians a responsibly documented narrative of a highly influential Broadway producer.[A] useful tool for scholars of theater history."CerclesAbout the AuthorCynthia Brideson is coauthor of Also Starring . . . : Forty Biographical Essays on the Greatest Character Actors of Hollywood's Golden Era, 1930ndash;1965.Sara Brideson is coauthor of Also Starring . . . : Forty Biographical Essays on the Greatest Character Actors of Hollywood's Golden Era, 1930ndash;1965.