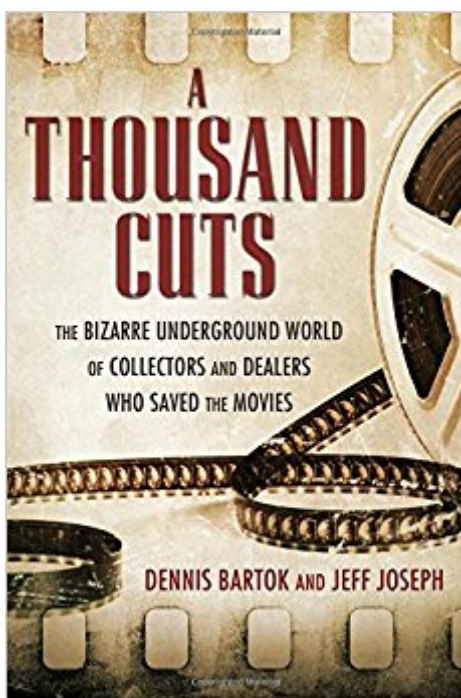


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A Thousand Cuts: The Bizarre Underground World Of Collectors And Dealers Who Saved The Movies



Synopsis

A Thousand Cuts is a candid exploration of one of America's strangest and most quickly vanishing subcultures. It is about the death of physical film in the digital era and about a paranoid, secretive, eccentric, and sometimes obsessive group of film-mad collectors who made movies and their projection a private religion in the time before DVDs and Blu-rays. The book includes the stories of film historian/critic Leonard Maltin, TCM host Robert Osborne discussing Rock Hudson's secret 1970s film vault, RoboCop producer Jon Davison dropping acid and screening King Kong with Jefferson Airplane at the Fillmore East, and Academy Award-winning film historian Kevin Brownlow recounting his decades-long quest to restore the 1927 Napoleon. Other lesser-known but equally fascinating subjects include one-legged former Broadway dancer Tony Turano, who lives in a Norma Desmond-like world of decaying movie memories, and notorious film pirate Al Beardsley, one of the men responsible for putting O. J. Simpson behind bars. Authors Dennis Bartok and Jeff Joseph examine one of the least-known episodes in modern legal history: the FBI's and Justice Department's campaign to harass, intimidate, and arrest film dealers and collectors in the early 1970s. Many of those persecuted were gay men. Victims included Planet of the Apes star Roddy McDowall, who was arrested in 1974 for film collecting and forced to name names of fellow collectors, including Rock Hudson and Mel Tormé. A Thousand Cuts explores the obsessions of the colorful individuals who created their own screening rooms, spent vast sums, negotiated underground networks, and even risked legal jeopardy to pursue their passion for real, physical film.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A copy of this title was provided for review purposes. If you are not a collector of something then you have no idea what it means to find buried treasure, to discover something that you love hidden in a thrift shop or to covet the glittery baubles that some other collector owns. This holds true for collectors of any item. But movie collectors and fans are a whole other creature. A THOUSAND CUTS might seem like a non-fiction book written about film fans but it's more than that. It's a story that involves pirates, it involves fanatics, it involves con men, it involves the FBI, it involves movie studios and more than anything it is about movie lovers. It might be hard for younger people to understand that there actually was a time when movies were not easily accessible. We live in a time when you can press an app on your cell phone and watch a movie there via services like Netflix. But go back further. Go past blu-rays to DVDs to VHS tapes and stop at the medium that movies began as: film. For fans of movies the only way you could watch your favorite movie was to see it in a theater or catch it on TV. With no VCR if you missed it you were out of luck. But there were a number of die-hard movie fans that went one step further, movie fans that bought copies of their favorite films ON film. Some were 16mm copies and some 35mm but they were films that they could own, hold and watch whenever they wanted at home. The book talks too many of these fans from the past who love the medium in its original form. They also own DVDs and tapes but the thing that the truly love is film itself. Each chapter has the authors talking to different people who have collected film over the years.

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