



## Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback))

By Saul Austerlitz



**Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback))** By Saul Austerlitz

Charlie Chaplin. Buster Keaton. The Marx Brothers. Billy Wilder. Woody Allen. The Coen brothers. Where would the American film be without them? Yet the cinematic genre these artists represent--comedy--has perennially received short shrift from critics, film buffs, and the Academy Awards.

Saul Austerlitz's *Another Fine Mess* is an attempt to right that wrong. Running the gamut of film history from *City Lights* to *Knocked Up*, *Another Fine Mess* retells the story of American film from the perspective of its unwanted stepbrother--the comedy. In 30 long chapters and 100 shorter entries, each devoted primarily to a single performer or director, *Another Fine Mess* retraces the steps of the American comedy film, filling in the gaps and following the connections that link Mae West to Doris Day, or W. C. Fields to Will Ferrell. The first book of its kind in more than a generation, *Another Fine Mess* is an eye-opening, entertaining, and enlightening tour of the American comedy, encompassing the masterpieces, the box-office smashes, and all the little-known gems in between.

 [Download Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Come ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Co ...pdf](#)

# Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback))

By Saul Austerlitz

**Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback))** By Saul Austerlitz

Charlie Chaplin. Buster Keaton. The Marx Brothers. Billy Wilder. Woody Allen. The Coen brothers. Where would the American film be without them? Yet the cinematic genre these artists represent--comedy--has perennially received short shrift from critics, film buffs, and the Academy Awards.

Saul Austerlitz's *Another Fine Mess* is an attempt to right that wrong. Running the gamut of film history from *City Lights* to *Knocked Up*, *Another Fine Mess* retells the story of American film from the perspective of its unwanted stepbrother--the comedy. In 30 long chapters and 100 shorter entries, each devoted primarily to a single performer or director, *Another Fine Mess* retraces the steps of the American comedy film, filling in the gaps and following the connections that link Mae West to Doris Day, or W. C. Fields to Will Ferrell. The first book of its kind in more than a generation, *Another Fine Mess* is an eye-opening, entertaining, and enlightening tour of the American comedy, encompassing the masterpieces, the box-office smashes, and all the little-known gems in between.

**Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback))** By Saul Austerlitz **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1263025 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Chicago Review Press
- Published on: 2010-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.10" w x 6.00" l, 1.60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 528 pages

 [Download Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Come ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Co ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

American film comedy is barely a century old and already commentary on it can fill bookshelves, with countless pages devoted to the evolution of physical comedy, the influence of notable comedians like Charlie Chaplin, and the effects of technology on the form. Austerlitz touches on all of these things, but his objective is to provide a chronological set of biographies of the most important figures, both major (the top 30) and minor (over 100 more), and comment on their achievements and influence. The result is a comprehensive textbook that traces a legitimate line of succession from Chaplin to Apatow. Clearly Austerlitz has great affection for and knowledge of his subject; he can comment with equal skill on Renee Zellweger and W.C. Fields. Still, his take on the century is not without bias. Never less than candid ("Mel Brooks is overrated"), his tastes are also present in what he leaves out (Hal Ashby, Hal Hartley, and Cameron Crowe are all missing). Though readers will surely disagree with some of his choices, the breadth of material Austerlitz has compiled here is a feat. Photos. (Sept.)

(c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Austerlitz asserts that comedy has been underappreciated as a cinematic genre by critics and historians, and that this has resulted in underrepresentation in Academy Awards presentations and nominations. To redress this inequity, Austerlitz presents more than 100 biographical sketches of top comedy talents from Charlie Chaplin to Judd Apatow, augmented by shorter tidbits regarding lesser players. So the Jim Carrey saga coexists with the legend of Harold Lloyd, and the debonair comic stylings of Cary Grant contrast nicely with those of Will Ferrell. As the title would indicate, Laurel and Hardy are limned, as are Buster Keaton, W. C. Fields, Mae West, and the Marx Brothers. Katharine Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, and Doris Day are the only other women accorded full chapters, but Myrna Loy, Carole Lombard, and Tina Fey, among others, garner tidbit status. More recent comic masters featured include Ben Stiller, the Coen Brothers, and Steve Martin. With broad coverage like this, the book has some reference applications, though most of the pieces are unfailingly upbeat. Even tragic death is fraught with dreamy potential: regarding Jean Harlow's death at 26, Austerlitz muses, "What might Preston Sturges have made of her had she lived?" Entertaining reading. --Mike Tribby

Review

"Entertaining reading." —*Booklist*

"Conventional wisdom holds that analyzing comedy is a thankless task—who's to say what's funny, and why kill the fun of it?—but Saul Austerlitz's wide-ranging survey of American film comedy is both illuminating and hugely enjoyable. With its sharp insights and vivid biographical sketches, it's first-rate film criticism and a terrific resource to boot." —Dennis Lim, editor, *The Village Voice Film Guide*

"I was enrapt, argumentative, gobsmacked, amused and ready to rethink what I know about American film comedy. Crack this book open, and let the debate—and the flying pies—begin." —Glen David Gold, author, *Carter Beats the Devil* and *Sunnyside*

"Comprehensive yet reader-friendly account." —LAWeekly.com

"A sprawling but incisive biography of film comedy history." —*North County Times*

"Entertaining and amusing . . . this book truly highlights the best of the genre." —COEDMagazine.com

"Clever and well-researched." —*Library Journal*

"Sharp, scholarly." —AmericanProfile.com

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Darren Meekins:**

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want truly feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The actual Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unstable experience.

#### **Christopher Hickman:**

This Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) are usually reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason of this Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) can be one of many great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you actually with information that possibly will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions in e-book and printed ones. Beside that this Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) forcing you to have an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

#### **Paulette Preston:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) reserve written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who read the book. Written within good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) as

good book not simply by the cover but also by the content. This is one guide that can break don't evaluate book by its include, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

**Clifford Roselli:**

In this age globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you is Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) this e-book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The language styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some exploration when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book appropriate all of you.

**Download and Read Online Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz #TQPILAGM0FH**

## **Read Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz for online ebook**

Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz books to read online.

### **Online Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz ebook PDF download**

**Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz Doc**

**Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz Mobipocket**

**Another Fine Mess: A History of American Film Comedy (Cappella Books (Paperback)) By Saul Austerlitz EPub**