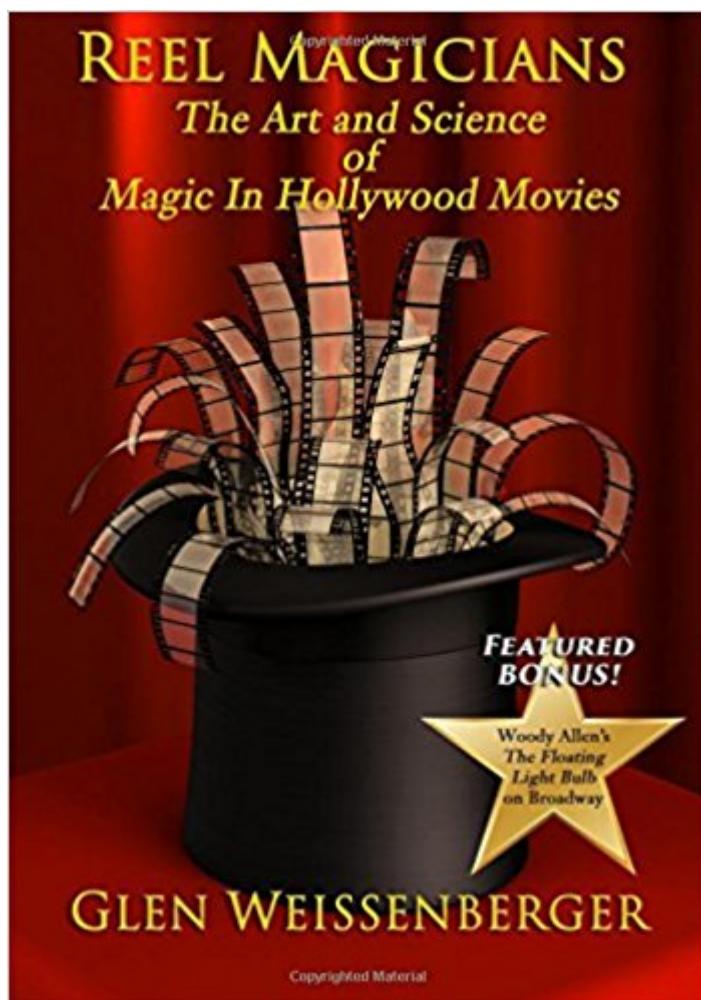


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Reel Magicians: The Art And Science Of Magic In Hollywood Movies (The Weissenberger Popular Culture Series)



Synopsis

"Reel Magicians is a one-of-a-kind movie guide for aficionados of film and/or magic: expertly-written reviews of all movies featuring magician characters-as stars, in pivotal character parts, or through powerful symbolic presences."But, a caveat! The dazzling celluloid illusions may indeed depict extraordinary artistry, but they must also comply with the laws of physics!""Weissenberger is the only creative scholar who could have authored this book. A delightfully dexterous magician of consummate skill, he edited *The Protection of Magicians' Secrets* (The World Alliance of Magicians, 2002), served as legal counsel to both WAM and The International Brotherhood of Magicians, taught graduate-level film courses, and chaired The Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Film Commission. And, as a former law school dean, and a nationally-renowned authority in legal evidence, psychiatry, and forensic psychology, he brings unique insights to magic moviemaking!"

"Reel Magicians is an invaluable movie review guide that belongs on every movie buff's and magician's bookshelf!"Ken Klosterman, Member, Board of Trustees and Past President (1995-96), The International Brotherhood of Magicians; author, *Salon de Magie* (2006)Whether you're an admirer of real-life illusionists such as Houdini, the Amazing Kreskin, the Blackstones (and more), who is eager to find the best film performances of stage magic, daring escapes, feats of mentalism (and more) ... Or an ardent movie fan curious why magic captivates our most acclaimed filmmakers, from Martin Scorsese, to Woody Allen, to Brian De Palma, to Ingmar Bergman (and more) ... Or you just love Hollywood gossip! Who couldn't get his magician movie greenlit without a little help from his A-List celebrity father? How did Allen treat his actors? (and more) ... You'll love *Reel Magicians!* Everything You Want In a Magic Movie Review Reference Guide!Expert capsule movie entries (The Duds!), as well as probing, often critical, evaluations (The Must-Sees!) of classic, obscure, and modern films! A synopsis of each one, full movie credits, and any domestic or foreign film awards!Insider details of the magic performed, and analyses of the magician characters!Cleverly interwoven critical reviews from the movie's film festival circuit tour, its theatrical runs (Roger Ebert, the New York Times, and more), as well responses from later video, DVD, or cable releases (Rotten Tomatoes, IMDb, and more)!Is this a brilliant screenplay adaptation-or an original script that tanks? Are there lush production values (cinematography, musical scores)?Which magical movies cross genres into film noir, horror, or sprinkle in some British humor? Have any become cult classics over time?Which are suitable family fare? Is this one a light-hearted comedy or a complex psychological drama?And where can you find these films? *Reel Magicians* answers all of the above (and MORE)!Featured Bonus! Woody Allen's The Floating Light Bulb on Broadway!Add to the annals of magic lore this richly-researched, never-before-published article in which the author traces

Harry Blackstone Sr.'s creation of "the floating lightbulb" to Blackstone Jr.'s performing his father's crowd-pleasing effect in his Magnificent Musical Magic Show, to Allen's play of 1981. Only here, do Light Bulb's Tony-winning star, Brian Backer; its magical director, Robert Aberdeen; and Gay Blackstone, widow of Blackstone Jr., share personal memories of Woody Allen and his Light Bulb with Weissenberger!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Glen Weissenberger demonstrates he is a master of pop culture nonfiction with the debut of his *Reel Magicians*. The Harvard Law School educated, former law school dean is nationally renowned for his voluminous contributions to legal scholarship as the author the largest selling publications on the law of evidence. Glen's first two romantic suspense novels, *Made to Measure Man* and *Companions by Contract*, also enjoy critical and popular acclaim. In *Reel Magicians*, Glen is turning to writing about a longtime passion—magic—which dates back to his receiving a Gilbert & Sullivan's *Mysto Magic Show Set* as a Christmas present at the age of eight! Today, Glen has a dedicated magic studio in his home where he performs close-up, parlor and stage magic. Its walls are appointed with framed original posters for many of the movies he reviews here. For more about Glen, see his Author Central page on [Amazon](#), his Author Biography on Goodreads, and join us at [www.weissenbergerartisticalliance.com!](http://www.weissenbergerartisticalliance.com)

Reel Magicians is a well-researched and competently-written guide to 26 movies (and one play) about magic and magicians. Mr. Weissenberger is up-front about the book's "modest objective": to be "...a guide to anyone who enjoys both forms of entertainment..." This reader feels that the book would have benefited greatly from a less modest approach. For example, in the introduction, Mr. Weissenberger states that "The confluence and then divergence of film and theatrical magic is a fascinating story ..." That tantalizing tidbit is an example of what won't be in the book. While some historical information is presented about each movie covered, there is no big picture here. No attempt to pull the threads together and make a cohesive story of the individual reviews. An over-abundance of modesty is also a problem in the brief discussion of each movie. When discussing the artistic merits of a particular movie, Mr. Weissenberger relies heavily on the words and opinions of others, at the expense of his own. Mr. Weissenberger is himself a magician, and this reader believes that his insight into the use of magic and magicians in a particular movie would be more pertinent and more interesting, than, say, the movie's ranking on "Rotten Tomatoes," or how the movie is described on the "Turner Classic Movies" website. In his review of "The Illusionist" (2010), Mr. Weissenberger writes "The hand-drawn panaormas of Paris, Edinburgh, and coastal areas of Scotland are like museum-quality watercolors." This reader wishes that Mr. Weissenberger had given us more of that (himself), and less of other people's already-expressed opinions. We would have forgiven him for any lack of modesty.

I am a huge movie person, and I particularly love reading about Hollywood, and Hollywood film makers. I was looking on , and I put in some names of directors to search (Woody Allen), and up came Reel Magicians. And I just wanted to write a review to say how very glad that I am that it did!! I really enjoyed reading here about how magic, magical performances, and characters who are magicians can come together in so many different ways in film. And also Mr. Weissenberger speaks at length about the psychology of filmmakers inspired by magic. This is a great resource for all fans of movies! Am very glad I bought Reel Magicians, and recommend it to all Hollywood movie watchers. You'll find movies to watch that you have never heard of before!

I was excited to read Reel Magicians as this book answers the intriguing question of how the amazing world of magic has been portrayed by the movie industry throughout the years. Movies have a unique ability to demonstrate magic but must be convincing and real to the audience. This is a great resource for all "magic" movie lovers with its well researched, behind the scenes information

and comprehensive reviews of this film genre. *Reel Magicians* is an invitation to the reader and film buff to share in the knowledge and passion of the author, and will be your best guide to movies sure to delight the magician in all of us.

I had the extreme privilege and pleasure of seeing an advance copy of this wonderful work of art. It is a reference work, a hobbyist's treasure, and an entertainment, all wrapped up in a masterfully written book. Mr. Weissenberger has created a work that transcends genre. Everyone needs this book.

For fans of magic looking to see their hobby faithfully and skillfully represented onscreen, *Reel Magicians* is a true gift. Not only does it provide a useful road map to identify which films represent realistic magic (i.e., magic a real-life magician could physically perform), but its film descriptions provide a compilation of detail not available in any other single source. Cast, plot, accolades, analysis: It's all there. Plus, the author is a real, practicing magician—*a sure sign he knows his stuff*. If you're a fan of magic on film and haven't picked a film for your next movie night, definitely a recommended read.

GREAT MOVIE REVIEW GUIDE for EVERYONE—NOT just MAGICIANS!

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