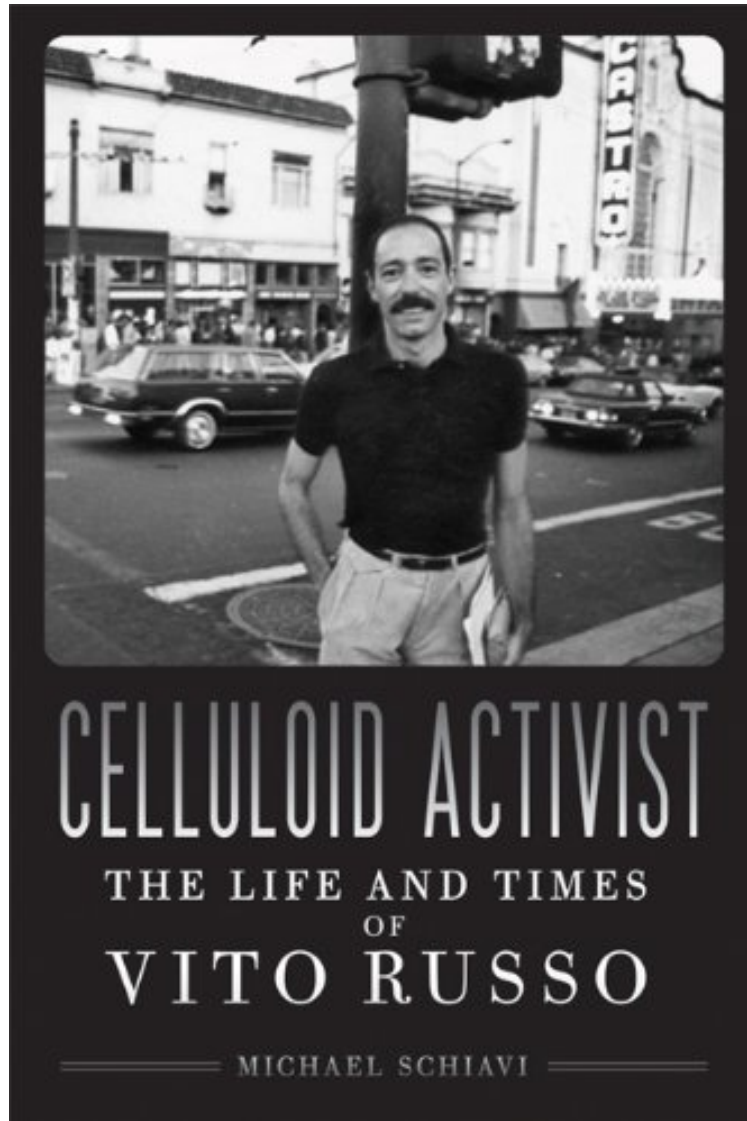


[Mobile book] Celluloid Activist: The Life and Times of Vito Russo

Celluloid Activist: The Life and Times of Vito Russo

Michael Schiavi

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Michael Schiavi : Celluloid Activist: The Life and Times of Vito Russo before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Celluloid Activist: The Life and Times of Vito Russo:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. More than a BiographyBy ElangayThis book about the life of a giant among America's gay activists is a terrific read. Even those who knew and were close to Vito Russo are likely to discover many things they did not know. The research is impeccable and the access the author had to family and friends exceptional. Michael Schiavi's deep regard for Vito -- a person he never met but who, nonetheless, inspired his

own life's journey -- make this a loving and spellbinding biography. But this is much more than a biography. This is a whirlwind and hammer that give insight into the earliest days of the LGBT movement, its visionaries and leaders (many of whom sacrificed much and also deserve to be memorialized in a biography), and its impact on the whole culture in the 1970s and 80s. It also captures the agonies of the early HIV/AIDS epidemic through the experience of one man whose determination to live fully until his last breath inspired thousands of people and helped change the way the government and pharmaceuticals responded to the growing epidemic. Celluloid Activist draws on the rich heritage of the cinema that Vito loved so much and illuminated so brilliantly in his own book, *The Celluloid Closet* (Harper Row, 1981). We owe a profound debt to Vito for opening eyes and minds to the power of movie images and, without exaggeration, for the positive images of LGBT people in film and television we enjoy today -- images that too many people take for granted. Michael Schiavi has revealed more than a life here; he has revealed history being made through one gay man's commitment to being as free as he could be in a homophobic America that promised "justice and liberty for all" but too often failed to deliver. Vito clearly believed such justice and liberty were worth fighting, even dying, for. This beautifully written book will move you in unexpected, challenging, inspiring ways. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating biography about a fascinating character. By Miles D. Moore

In "Celluloid Activist: The Life and Times of Vito Russo," Michael Schiavi has written a fascinating, meticulously researched story about one of the most compelling figures from the gay rights movement of the 1970s and 80s. Vito Russo's life, as Schiavi shows us, was ruled by two passions: movies and gay rights. He combined these two passions in "The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies," his pioneering 1981 book of film criticism. Schiavi does an excellent job of putting Russo's life and achievements in context, and paints a moving portrait of Russo's last years when he and so many of his friends were felled by the HIV virus. For anyone interested in the cinema, gay rights or the historical period, "Celluloid Activist" is a must-read. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book!

By a3amboymichael Schiavi has written a wonderfully detailed, beautifully remembered account of the life, career and passion of Vito Russo. This is a thoroughly researched book, put together with the utmost respect, but it reads very smoothly. This is a perfect companion for the upcoming documentary on Russo's life. I've always wondered what Vito would have made of 90s queer film explosion and also what he'd think of the proliferation of gay cinema in the past 10 years. I can never have that, but at least I have this.

Celluloid Activist is the biography of gay-rights giant Vito Russo, the man who wrote *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies*, commonly regarded as the foundational text of gay and lesbian film studies and one of the first to be widely read.

My dear friend, Vito Russo, was a darling and a daring man; more important, he was a giant in the fields of gay and AIDS activism. In *Celluloid Activist*, Michael Schiavi recounts Vito's full life, starting with a New York childhood that Martin Scorsese might have written, through Vito's penning of the indispensable *Celluloid Closet*, the first major study of gays and lesbians in film, and finally through Vito's tireless work as an AIDS activist. All this, plus a look at Vito up a tree (literally) at the Stonewall Riots! *Celluloid Activist* is a long-overdue examination of a man who helped put gay rights on the map. In the words of Edith Ann, one of Vito's other good buddies, And that's the truth-h-h-h! Lily Tomlin