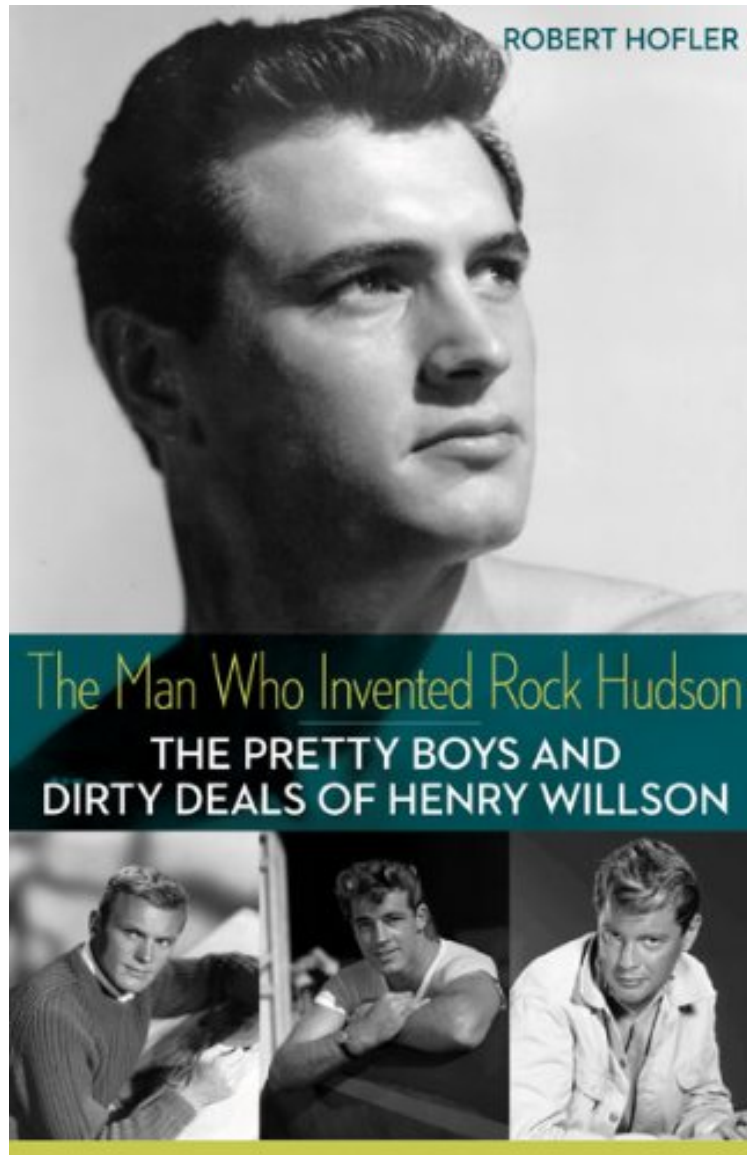


(Ebook pdf) The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson: The Pretty Boys and Dirty Deals of Henry Willson

The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson: The Pretty Boys and Dirty Deals of Henry Willson

Robert Hofler

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Robert Hofler : The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson: The Pretty Boys and Dirty Deals of Henry Willson before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson: The Pretty Boys and Dirty Deals of Henry Willson:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Would not recommend the bookBy TwinkletoesThis author rambled

on so much I just skipped so many pages. There were errors in dates etc. and places. Rock Hudson was not married in a church but at a hotel. Also he passed away October 2nd, 1985 (not August 5th 1987 - as stated in the book by Robert Hofler). With these errors the details had not been well researched. Would not recommend the book. I was disappointed with it. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good book. Easy read. By Donna Roberts I grew up watching Rock Hudson and Doris Day movies with my mom. I remember when he died and when the world found out he had AIDS. This book is very interesting and easy to follow. It makes him and everyone around him seem real, not just names. You come away realizing that the real Rock Hudson was just a country boy made good. You will read about his real life friendship and flirty ways with Doris Day. You'll see how he lacked confidence in himself and how hard he worked to keep the fact that he was gay hidden from Hollywood and his fans. If you like biographies about famous celebrities and the stars they worked from days gone by, this is the book. I highly recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... this book a few years ago and it seems like someone edited several occurrences from the book. By Mieko Tanaka I read this book a few years ago and it seems like someone edited several occurrences from the book. So I must give it 2 stars. It definitely was better before ; though it does show that men were also subjected to sexual harassment too.

Henry Willson was one of the quintessential power brokers in Hollywood during the late 1940s and 1950s when he launched the careers of Rock Hudson, Lana Turner, Tab Hunter, Natalie Wood, and many others. He was also a true casting couch agent, brokering sex for opportunity on the silver screen. While this practice was rampant across Hollywood, for gay actors and film professionals the casting couch was a dangerous cliff: a public revelation could and would ruin a career. *The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson* is an incredible biography as well as a harrowing look into Hollywood at a time of great sexual oppression, roaming vice squads searching for gay and/or communist activity, and the impossibilities for gay actors of the era.

From Publishers Weekly Those who think Hollywood's current predatory political scene and celebrity partner-swapping activities are new phenomena would be wise to dive into this tell-all tale of Henry Willson, an agent who became a major star maker to actors like Rock Hudson, Tab Hunter and Troy Donahue in the 1950s. Rapacious, ambitious and fond of a sex-for-roles strategy, Willson (1911-1978) is a compelling character worthy of this extensive biography. His story, too, illustrates the rise of the studio star system, in which actresses were pimped out to movie executives by their agents, and actors married to cover their homosexual liaisons. Hofler, a former *Variety* senior editor now the publication's theater reporter, delves into this shadowy, sometimes seamy world with particular relish, and his writing has all the sizzle of the films his subjects starred in. He includes interviews with a number of Hollywood insiders (Roddy McDowall and Shirley Temple Black, to name two), and shows remarkable sympathy for Willson, offering a glimpse into a man and an era that may be past, but whose effects linger still. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Henry Wilson was a Hollywood reporter turned agent who represented, among other actors, several who were gay, and his specialty was not only seducing young Hollywood material but also "butching" them up for acceptance on the silver screen in the heartland, where, in the 1950s and 1960s, the idea of a matinee idol being homosexual simply could not be conceived. Wilson was gay himself but not handsome; however, he certainly knew a handsome face when he saw one, especially the handsome face out of which a successful film career could be made. One of Wilson's major clients--one of his major inventions--was Rock Hudson, and it is through Rock's story that this delicious yet sad history of Hollywood in that era is refracted. Hollywood was publicity driven and gay-repressed back then, but finally, what really has changed? Hofler's chronicle is an important contribution to the behind-the-scenes history of the movie industry and pairs nicely with the recently published *Tab Hunter Confidential*. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Those who think Hollywood's current predatory political scene and celebrity partner-swapping activities are new phenomena would be wise to dive into this tell-all tale of Henry Willson, an agent who became a major star maker to actors like Rock Hudson, Tab Hunter, and Troy Donahue in the 1950s." Publishers Weekly