



Military Comedy Films: A Critical Survey and Filmography of Hollywood Releases Since 1918

By Hal Erickson

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Beginning with Charlie Chaplin's *Shoulder Arms*, released in America near the end of World War I, the military comedy film has been one of Hollywood's most durable genres. This generously illustrated history examines over 225 Army, Navy and Marine-related comedies produced between 1918 and 2009, including the abundance of laughspinners released during World War II in the wake of Abbott and Costello's phenomenally successful *Buck Privates* (1941), and the many lighthearted service films of the immediate postwar era, among them *Mister Roberts* (1955) and *No Time for Sergeants* (1958). Also included are discussions of such subgenres as silent films (*The General*), military-academy farces (*Brother Rat*), women in uniform (*Private Benjamin*), misfits making good (*Stripes*), anti-war comedies (*MASH*), and fact-based films (*The Men Who Stare at Goats*). A closing filmography is included in this richly detailed volume.

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- Sales Rank: #6009235 in Books
- Brand: Brand: McFarland
- Published on: 2012-08-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.90" h x 1.20" w x 7.00" l, 1.65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 426 pages

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Review

"fascinating...attention to detail is impressive. Recommended"--*Choice*; "essential"--*The NYMAS Review*; "the author discusses the inspiration for many films and the political and social climate the movie was created in"--*ARBA*.

About the Author

Hal Erickson has written several media-related books for McFarland, and was for many years a primary editor of the All-Movie Guide website. He lives and works in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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