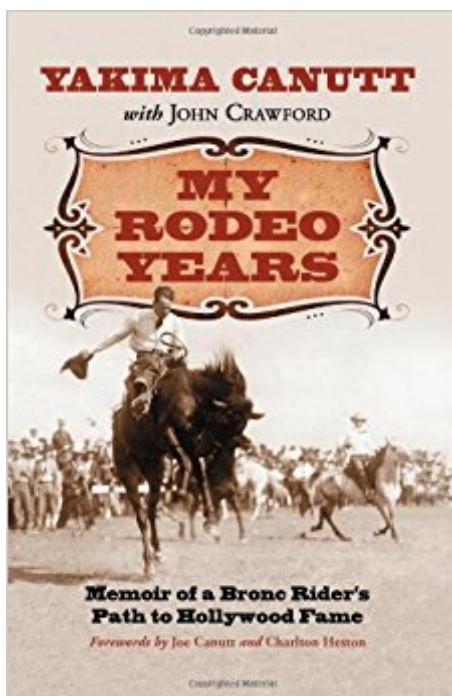


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My Rodeo Years: Memoir Of A Bronc Rider's Path To Hollywood Fame



Synopsis

Rodeo legend, actor and stuntman Yakima Canutt blazed a trail as a champion bronco buster and rode to fame as a collaborator with John Wayne, who claimed to borrow his on-screen persona from Canutt's real one. This memoir, as told to John Crawford, relates Canutt's years on the rodeo circuit, his roles in silent westerns, and his craftsmanship in movie stunts on such epics as Stagecoach and Ben-Hur, as well as his family life and friendships.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The late Yakima Canutt was an Academy Award winner, and was inducted into the Stuntmen's Hall of Fame, Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. John Crawford is a writer and actor (who earned his first role from Yakima Canutt). He lives in Newbury Park, California.

This is a telling book of strong human character. At times rough, but so were the times. A great Christmas gift for any one interested in Rodeo, horses (excellent insight and training tips), movie stunt work in the silents, and early talkies. The companion book Stuntman is far more involved in the movie aspects and behind the scenes. I never felt put-upon in reading this. Many auto or biographical books embellish "slickly" or overtly to the reader the story, but not so here in my opinion. I felt that Yakima was sitting in his living room with me as though sharing with a life-lived some fascinating history that was personalized to me. I really would have liked to have known the man. He was more rough-n-tumble than me, but having spent good part of a life on horse &/or cattle outfits where life was stark, calloused, tough, and raw, Yakima would be the person you'd want to

have your back, when the draw-down came. He did an enviable job as a father in raising his children. America IS the-less without Yakima Canutt. Top1Horseman.

This volume fills in a lot of Yakima's earlier years, in rodeo and growing up, that was only lightly covered in "Stunt Man". If You really want to know the man you have to read Both.

John did a great job on this book, couple mistakes but nothing serious. I have known the family since the late 1940's and miss my 2nd Mom & Dad very much. Their daughter & I are still best of friends to this day.

I'm a fan of old western movies so reading about Yak and his life as a rodeo cowboy and stunt man was fascinating to me. To bad we still don't have those good ole days.

Good book

I just got done reading this book and have enjoyed it immensely. Yakima was quite the guy. An all time national rodeo champion who lived in the beginning of the 1900's when life was alot different than today. I have yet to read his other book - *Stuntman, A Stunt Man: The Autobiography of Yakima Canutt* but I have ordered it. I have enjoyed studying the early silent western films and their stars. Yakima Canutt was one of the first stuntmen, and all his years in rodeo helped him to learn to develop stunts for the early silent films and early talkies. He worked with John Wayne and John Ford in *Stagecoach*. His signature stunt of falling between the six horses in front of the stagecoach and then releasing to let the horses and coach pass over him, then grab the back of the coach and climb up to take out the driver was perfected long before he got into the movies. He taught Charlton Heston how to drive a chariot in the movie *Ben Hur*. He did stunts for John Wayne, and John Wayne did stunts for him! Great book and great history to read about. Makes me want to review the old films in a new way looking for Yakima and John's stunts.

As a side note, John Crawford is listed as the writer, but the book was actually compiled, written and done by Yakima Canutts son, Joe Canutt. He took it over after he saw that Crawford was not doing a very good job at it. Joe was kind enough to leave Crawford as the writer. Joe was Charlton Hestons stunt double for 35 years.

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