Mccrea, Joel (1905-1990) Encyclopedia Article

Mccrea, Joel (1905-1990)

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Mccrea, Joel (1905-1990) Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Mccrea, Joel (1905-1990).....3

Mccrea, Joel (1905-1990)

Although he liked doing Westerns best, Joel McCrea also appeared in some of the best comedy films of the early 1940s, such as *The Palm Beach Story* (1942), *Sullivan's Travels* (1941), and *The More the Merrier* (1943). A versatile actor, he also excelled in dramas and thrillers, including *These Three* (1936), *Dead End* (1937), and Hitchcock's *Foreign Correspondent* (1940). Not a flashy actor, he was a tall, attractive, somewhat self-effacing man who conveyed a sort of rough hewn honesty and patience that served him well in both serious and comedy roles.

Born in Pasadena, California, at the age of nine McCrea moved with his family to Hollywood when it was still "all open country"—he and the movie business grew up together. He started doing extra work in silent films in the early 1920s, initially because he was an excellent horseman. By the early 1930s, he was starring in talkies like *Bird of Paradise* (1930), *The Lost Squadron* (1932), and *The Most Dangerous Game* (1932). McCrea switched almost exclusively to Westerns in the mid-1940s, appearing in *Ramrod* (1947), *Four Faces West* (1948), and *Colorado Territory* (1949), along with nearly two dozen others. Joel McCrea's final major Western was Sam Peckinpah's *Ride the High Country,* which has been considered a classic since its release in 1962.

Further Reading:

Katz, Ephraim. *The Film Encyclopedia.* New York, Perigee Books, 1982.

Kobol, John. *People Will Talk.* New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.