



The Talk of the Town *continues...*

“Kay Thompson was a human dynamo. My brothers and I were constantly swept up by her brilliance. Sam Irvin has captured all of this in his incredible book. I know you will thoroughly enjoy reading it.”

– DON WILLIAMS, OF KAY THOMPSON & THE WILLIAMS BROTHERS

“It’s an amazing book! Sam Irvin has captured Ms. T. to a T. I just re-read it and liked it even better the second time around.”

– DICK WILLIAMS, OF KAY THOMPSON & THE WILLIAMS BROTHERS

“To me, Kay was the Statue of Liberty. I couldn’t imagine how a book could do her justice but, by golly, Sam Irvin has done it. You won’t be able to put it down.”

– BEA WAIN, OF KAY THOMPSON’S RHYTHM SINGERS

“Kay was the hottest thing that ever hit the town and one of the most captivating women I’ve ever met in my life. There’ll never be another one like her, that’s for sure. A thorough examination of her astounding life was long overdue and I can’t imagine a better portrait than the one Sam Irvin has written. Heaven.”

– JULIE WILSON

“This fabulous Kay Thompson book totally captured her marvelous enthusiasm and talent and I’m delighted to be a part of it. I adore the cover with enchanting Eloise and the great picture of Kay in all her intense spirit!”

– PATRICE MUNSEL

“Thank you, Sam, for bringing Kay so richly and awesomely ‘back to life.’ Adventuring with Kay through your exciting book is like time-traveling through an incredible century of showbiz.”

– EVELYN RUDIE, STAR OF *PLAYHOUSE 90: ELOISE*

“At Metro... she scared the shit out of me! At Paramount... while shooting *Funny Face*... I got to know and love her. She *still* scared the shit out of me!!! Clearly author Sam Irvin wasn’t scared. You’ll enjoy Kay Thompson’s big life!”

– RUTA LEE, KAY’S GIRL FRIDAY IN *FUNNY FACE*

“What a wonderful book! I *loved* it from beginning to end. I couldn’t put it down and I hope it is as successful as it deserves to be.”

– ELINOR DONAHUE, STAR OF *FATHER KNOWS BEST* AND COACHED BY KAY THOMPSON IN *THREE DARING DAUGHTERS*

“I truly loved this book, the quality of the writing and the vivid detail. I couldn’t put it down and read it all at one sitting. It is an amazing biography. Kay really leaps off the page. And as for the documentation in those marvelous endnotes on the book’s website—would that all historians were so thorough.”

– DONNA HAMILTON, FORMER GOLDWYN GIRL COACHED BY KAY THOMPSON IN *THE KID FROM BROOKLYN*

“I loved this book. It was right on the money. Kay was a very special lady and I feel lucky to have known her.”

– BILL HARBACH, KAY THOMPSON’S AIDE-DE-CAMP AND THE FOUNDING PRODUCER OF *THE TONIGHT SHOW* AND *THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE*

“Kay Thompson was a force of nature: a tsunami that came out of nowhere, swept me away and changed my life. Awesome, overwhelming, breathtaking, and terrifying, but always, *a/ways* hilarious. Sam Irvin has captured all that and more!”

– MART CROWLEY, PLAYWRIGHT OF *THE BOYS IN THE BAND*

“A first-class piece of biography writing; evenhanded and yet, warts and all. If ever I wanted a biographer, I’d choose Sam Irvin. It’s a great read. What’s next? A movie? A TV special? The Biography Channel?”

– RICHARD O’BRIEN, LIBRETTIST, LYRICIST AND COMPOSER OF *THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW* (IN WHICH HE STARRED AS RIFF RAFF)

“How faaaaabulous! Kay Thompson hits the stalls! I cannot tell you how many people in the arts I have run across who read Kay Thompson’s *Eloise* and knew all about her. Bette Midler—to name just one. We’d *all* read *Eloise*. My hair was actually inspired by Eloise, and as you can see, it still is. It gives new definition to the term ‘flyaway.’”

– BRUCE VILANCH

"A first-rate show business biography; chock full of outrageous stories, accurate history, psychological insight and of course, a fabulous subject."

– CHARLES BUSCH

“It’s THE exhaustive biography of The Madwoman of Manhattan.”

– LYPSINKA

“I’m a *huge* Kay Thompson fan so I bought the book the minute it hit the stands. It brought back a flood of indelible memories. When I was working at Fiorucci in 1976, Kay would pop in all the time. I wasn’t sure who she was at first but it didn’t take long to figure it out, with her strut and long Sherman cigarette. Long before people had colored hair, I had dyed my hair bright Day-Glo pink. Kay floated to me and touched my hair and said, ‘You will always remember to think....PINK!’ She was something else... and so is this wonderful book.”

– JOEY ARIAS

“Hair-raising! Head-spinning! Eye-popping! And that was just the reaction of the bookstore clerk when I bought a copy.”

– ELVIRA, MISTRESS OF THE DARK

“This amazing book is the double bacon cheeseburger of show business biographies... Juicy and oh-so-satisfying!”

– JACKIE BEAT

“Can’t put the book down for a New York minute. I am savoring every page. The insights and revelations are beyond compare. I usually read books really quickly as I go through at least twenty a month stemming from my days as a reviewer at the *LA Weekly*. But with *Kay Thompson* I am taking my sweet girly time.”

– VAGINAL DAVIS

“WARNING: Do not read Sam Irvin’s *Kay Thompson: From Funny Face to Eloise* while eating or drinking. It is so absolutely entertaining, shocking and funny, it made me blow Diet Coke out of my nose! Especially the outrageous chapter where Kay hijacks the television production of *Eloise*... Unbelievable. So find a nice, quiet place where you won’t embarrass yourself by laughing or gasping like a crazy person, and read this book! It’s genius!”

– JULIE BROWN

“I have to read *Eloise* once a month or I’ll perish. I got my first tattoo when I was 17 and it was Eloise on my lower back in the sort of tramp stamp place.
Eloise is a huge symbol of comfort for me.”

– LENA DUNHAM, STAR OF HBO’S *GIRLS*

“I used to babysit Lena Dunham. I’d pretend I was Kay Thompson and she was my Eloise!”

**– ZAC POSEN, FASHION DESIGNER
AND JUDGE ON *PROJECT: RUNWAY***

“You don’t have to know Kay Thompson to love this book. I knew very little about her before I read Sam Irvin’s amazing biography. Now I feel like I know her and seriously regret that I never had the good fortune meet her. Thank you, Sam, for shining the light on this uniquely talented and extraordinary woman.”

– NANCY ALLEN

“In show business I notice many architects of creativity go unsung and Kay Thompson is certainly one of them—which is very unfair. Maybe it’s sexism with a helping of bitterness toward her because she ‘tinkered’ with songs and arrangements and contracts—oh, and surely burned a few bridges. Such a huge talent, so feisty and ahead of her time. Astonishingly, she almost went without a written history. Thankfully Sam Irvin has corrected that. His book has shown me that it takes much more than talent to navigate the treacherous waters of Hollywood and some of us who want to survive Tinseltown will have to risk making enemies. Is it worth it? You bet! Great talent, great book. Thank you, Sam.”

– RAE DAWN CHONG

“I read this book cover to cover and LOVED IT!”

– MELISSA MANCHESTER

“Wow! What a piece of work. (Both the book and Kay, herself!) I learned so much and loved every page. The detail... The heart... The energy... The honesty...
Kay could not have asked for more. I devoured it!”

– SAM HARRIS

“It’s the best showbiz bio ever! The late, great Kay Thompson was certainly the most interesting creature I’ve had the opportunity to know. She lived life on her own terms, and made sure everyone in her wake was thrilled, shocked, dazzled and sometimes infuriated by her actions. Kay’s extraordinary talents surpassed everything, though.

Hanging with the person who jazzed-up MGM, coached Judy and Frank, changed the nightclub scene forever, and birthed Eloise enriched my life... and Sam’s book brings her back in such a clear, detailed and respectful way, I can just smell her beloved Rigaud candles! Viva, Kay!”

– JIM CARUSO

“What a fabulous wealth of information and great stories, not only about Kay Thompson, but about the golden age of radio and movies. I learned something new with every turn of the page! Bravo Sam Irvin!”

– BILLY STRITCH

“I *gulped* this book down. I met Kay over at Liza Minnelli’s and she was divine, hilarious, feisty and judging. This *great* book nailed everything about her.”

– JULIE HALSTON

“It’s about time someone wrote a bio of the great Kay Thompson and Sam Irvin has written a brilliant one! I gobbled it up! So thorough and wildly entertaining!”

**– RUTH WILLIAMSON, STAR AND PLAYWRIGHT OF
PURE HEAVEN: A PARTY WITH KAY THOMPSON**

“As sizzling, as crackling, as modern, as snarky and advanced as showbiz history can be, this biography surpasses it. You may have no idea how much the great, insane and wild woman, Kay Thompson, influenced the entertainment decades from the Forties to her death in 1998. You love celebrity? Celebrity loved Kay! A smashing work.”

– LIZ SMITH

“For anybody who knows anything about the history of show business, my friend Kay Thompson was its most lovable lunatic doll. In a 50-color deluxe box of Crayolas, she was fire-engine red. Sam Irvin has now preserved an authentic legend in amber with an exhaustively researched book that captures her genius, eccentricity, talent, personality and unique sense of humor in words as colorful as Kay herself. Like her own favorite word for anything special she discovered, experienced, savored and liked, it’s got ‘Bazazz!’”

– REX REED

“The woman behind a lot of great stars who depended on her sage advice, Kay Thompson shone brightest when stepping into the spotlight and writing, singing ‘Think Pink,’ or just being her wickedly witty self. Irvin’s brilliantly detailed book captures the lady in all her compelling contradictions. His book is really *quelque chose!*”

– MICHAEL MUSTO

“One of my favorite books of the past year! Sam Irvin has given Kay Thompson the kind of biography she’s long deserved: smart, dishy, and full of fascinating show-business stories. I can only imagine the amount of time and effort Irvin invested to create a complete and coherent timeline of Thompson’s existence. It’s an amazing journey that no one could invent. As a show-biz buff, I ate it all up like a bowl of M&Ms. Kay Thompson deserves a great biography, and this is it. I loved every bit of it. Once you’ve finished this book, the next logical step is to purchase Sam Irvin’s three-CD tribute to Kay, *Think Pink! A Kay Thompson Party*. It’s filled with rare recordings from every phase of her career. Consider it a must.”

– LEONARD MALTIN

“A brilliant job of research, judgment, insight and style. I was aware of Kay Thompson—she always intrigued me—and knew the outlines of her career but had no full idea of her tremendous impact on so many important careers and films. I think she more than deserved a great, wise book about her and Sam Irvin has delivered and then some!”

– KEVIN THOMAS

“Auntie Mame, Cleopatra and Madonna could all take lessons from Kay Thompson. Trying to put this outlandish, brilliant, immensely creative fireball down on paper is akin to containing lightning in a bottle but Sam Irvin has accomplished the impossible with this marvelously researched, infinitely interesting and entertaining key-hole look at one of the most accomplished but least-known fascinators in the history of show business. To borrow a word once used to describe her work, Irvin's book is *Thompsensational*.”

– ROBERT OSBORNE, TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES

“After getting Sam Irvin’s Kay Thompson book out to mention it during my intro to *Good News*, I decided to re-read it, which I did. Every word. And I loved it again. Such marvelous research. So much great information in it. What a ‘Vera Charles’ Kay would have made (in both *Auntie Mame* and *Mame*). *Sail Away* would have been a hit with her in it. And what I would have given to see her at the Roxy, even though she didn't like the grind or the experience. This book is a great read—and even better the second time around.”

– ROBERT OSBORNE, TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES

“I love this book. Sam pulled the curtain back on Kay Thompson and got to the bottom of her endless mysteries.”

– MARIE BRENNER, WRITER-AT-LARGE FOR VANITY FAIR

“As a portrait artist I like to capture a subject’s personality in a few concise strokes and I appreciate when anyone can do the same. Sam Irvin is that artist but he uses words instead of paint. BRAVO, Sam!!!”

– ROBERT RISKO, CARICATURIST FOR VANITY FAIR

“Hot Type: Sam Irvin 1000oves Kay Thompson.”

– ELISSA SCHAPPELL, VANITY FAIR

“In Sam Irvin’s new biography, *Kay Thompson: From Funny Face to Eloise*, we learn that the cabaret performer and author, raised in St. Louis, made her name at MGM as a vocal arranger for stars including Lena Horne and Judy Garland. If a movie were to be made of her life, who better to play the part than Patti LuPone? While the late Kay Thompson and the still thriving Patti LuPone would not seem to have much in common... they share an unconventional handsomeness that can be difficult to cast. Not that either star ever conformed to other people’s expectations.”

– HILTON ALS, *THE NEW YORKER*

“Sam Irvin’s bio of the fabulous—and fabulously odd—Kay Thompson is obsessively detailed, delicious, dramatic and dishy. In an alternate universe, I want to imagine George Cukor, say, snapping up the screen rights and making a big, swank musical bio movie out of Thompson’s fascinating life. If you want that *quelque chose*, you must read this book.”

– STEPHEN REBELLO, AUTHOR OF *ALFRED HITCHCOCK AND THE MAKING OF PSYCHO*; CONTRIBUTING EDITOR OF *PLAYBOY*

“A fine biography of an amazing career that zigzagged all over American popular culture. Kay Thompson knew everyone—she was the female Zelig—and Sam Irvin is able to follow her through all of her wonderful lives.”

– CHRISTOPHER BRAM, AUTHOR OF *GODS AND MONSTERS*

“‘Getting bored is not allowed,’ was Kay Thompson’s edict spoken by her precocious creation Eloise. I can guarantee that no precocious grown-up will be bored by this wonderful biography.”

– KEVIN SESSUMS, AUTHOR OF *MISSISSIPPI SISSY*

“During our tour of Stephanie Seymour’s apartment I note that she is reading Sam Irvin’s recent biography of Kay Thompson. ‘I’ve read all the Eloise books to all my children,’ Seymour enthuses. Happy memories.”

– WILLIAM NORWICH, *TOWN & COUNTRY*

“An extraordinary woman. Sam Irvin illuminates the supercharged life of the entertainer and children’s-book author who was best friend to Judy Garland and champion of her own recipe for success: ‘A lot of hard work, a lot of sense of humor, a lot of joy, and a whole lot of tra-la-la!’”

– MEGAN O’GRADY, *VOGUE*

“It’s packed with a lot of tra-la-la... Mr. Irvin has done his homework and then some... [He] tattoos every available surface with the minute details of each radio show, nightclub gig, talk-show appearance and vocal coaching job Thompson ever turned up for... [and he] writes with intelligence and insight about the development of *Eloise*.”

– DWIGHT GARNER, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

“A new biography, *Kay Thompson: From Funny Face to Eloise* by Sam Irvin, provides a revealing look at this complex and contradictory woman.”

– **SUSAN KING, LOS ANGELES TIMES**

“Irvin superbly tells the whole story about a fabulous yet flawed woman who comes across as downright exhausting at times. This biography is anything but.”

– **CRAIG WILSON, USA TODAY**

“Fans of Hollywood's golden age and fans of the Plaza Hotel's most famous inhabitant will be, in Eloise speak, *rawther* glad that Kay Thompson's own story has been told.”

– **JOANNE KAUFMAN, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

“The book is a biography of Kay Thompson, whom many people don't remember anymore. But she had an interesting life... and she inspired true saintliness in Liza Minnelli, who sheltered her in her final years.”

– **CAROLYN SEE, THE WASHINGTON POST**

“Kay Thompson was Judy Garland's confidante, Liza Minnelli's godmother, Lena Horne's matchmaker, and Eloise's creator. As a singer and vocal coach, an actor and dancer, a nightclub fixture and noted clotheshorse, she was among the most well-connected entertainers in the mid-20th century. Yet today she is much less famous than any of her real or fictional friends. A new biography by Sam Irvin, a movie and TV director, hopes to correct what its author sees as an injustice, and bring well-deserved acclaim to a woman he describes as ‘wildly talented and hilariously eccentric.’”

– **KATE TUTTLE, THE BOSTON GLOBE**

“Light, breezy, gossipy and filled with historical connections one could never imagine.”

– **PATRICK McGUIRE, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES**

“Kay Thompson's status as a show business cult figure is bolstered by... the new biography by Sam Irvin [about] the zany, irascible dame behind Judy & Liza & Eloise... [and] he doesn't stint on including anecdotes about her extreme eccentricity.”

– **JOE MEYERS, CONNECTICUT POST**

“To say that Kay Thompson was multi-talented is an understatement. This biography by Sam Irvin, a veteran director, producer and screenwriter for movies and television, is the gossipy, inside story of how this remarkable woman survived and thrived in the *snark*-infested waters of American entertainment.”

– **LARRY COX, TUCSON CITIZEN**

“Wildly fascinating... Irvin puts together an authentic account of a real-life character readers will be hard pressed to forget.”

– **NORA DUNNE, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR**

“Sam Irvin, producer and director, has written a biography of one of the most influential and perhaps underappreciated figures in show business.”

– **SCOTT SIMON, NPR**

“Spectacular. I found it to be one of the best biographies I have ever, ever, ever read. This was one of the few books in my life that, from the moment I finished, I went back to the beginning and read it again. And the moment I finished, I went back to the beginning and read it a *third* time. I couldn’t get enough of this book. I cannot imagine anyone not being as fascinated as I was with it. The author did a magnificent job.”

– **PETER FILICHIA, BROADWAY RADIO**

“This incredible new book... is packed, and I mean jam-packed, with one juicy story after another. Irvin captures Kay’s manic energy [and] laser intensity. The author also brings to life the fabulous high-style world of 1950’s nightclubs and cabarets—a lush oasis of sexual innuendo and sophistication in that repressed decade.

You can almost smell the cigarette smoke and hear the martini glasses clinking, with everybody *dressed up!* The book is like a party in your hands!”

– **LIZ SMITH, wowOwow.com**

“Rollicking humor and infectious enthusiasm... An extremely entertaining chronicle of one of the most distinctive and absurdly gifted personalities in the history of show business... Hollywood director and producer Irvin presents the life of Thompson with vigor and dash befitting his larger-than-life subject.”

– **KIRKUS REVIEWS**

“Irvin did an incredible amount of research for this book, and he provides meticulous details and firsthand accounts of encounters with Thompson that really make her personality and the show business world come alive. At one point, Irvin quotes Louella Parsons as saying in the 1950s: ‘What a story Kay’s sensational rise to fame is—much more thrilling than fiction. Someday somebody’s going to write it—it would make a fascinating story.’ Sam Irvin’s editorial reply in the book is: ‘Ya think?’ And this book proves it to be true.”

– **CLAIRE KELLEY, [TK] REVIEWS**

“This thoroughly entertaining biography leaves no stone unturned in telling Kay Thompson’s raucous and rollicking story.”

– **KATHLEEN HUGHES, BOOKLIST**

“She molded Judy Garland’s singing voice and bedded Andy Williams. She wrote the Eloise books, whose insouciant young heroine inspired countless little girls to good-natured rebellion. Still, Kay Thompson—a songwriter, singer, and radio and movie star—is today not so well-known. A new bio may remedy that. Sam Irvin tells the life story, quirks and all, of this ‘wildly talented and hilariously eccentric’ woman.”

– **EVELYN RENOLD, AARP MAGAZINE**

“Irvin preserves Thompson’s star-studded exploits with the attention to detail that Thompson would approve of, but the author is best when charting Thompson’s talent for reinvention.”

– **JOANNE LATIMER, *MACLEAN’S***

“Kay Thompson is chiefly remembered as the author of the *Eloise* books but in *From Funny Face to Eloise*, Hollywood director Sam Irvin writes an entertaining biography describing Thompson’s dynamic personality and wild personal lifestyle.”

– **ANDREA TULLMAN, *DOWNTOWN MAGAZINE NYC***

“No one in show business seems to have possessed as much energy and chutzpa as Kay Thompson. Today reinventing oneself has become common but decades ago Thompson was the queen of re-invention. Radio star, vocal coach, actress, cabaret singer and the woman who brought us *Eloise*, Thompson did it all, on her terms, and in a style all her own. In his brilliant book, biographer Sam Irvin brings Kay back to life for both old and new generations to discover and enjoy.”

– **FRANK CARMICHAEL, *HAPPENINGS MAGAZINE***

“Filmmaker Sam Irvin’s fascinating new biography is ripe with information on Thompson and the set of circumstances surrounding the origin of the storybook six-year-old.”

– **ROSS KENNETH URKEN, *GUEST OF A GUEST NEW YORK***

“Film and television producer Sam Irvin brings Thompson lovingly, yet well-lit, to this thoroughly researched and stylishly written biography.”

– **DAVID MARSHALL JAMES, *YAHOO! SHINE***

“If you think *Eloise* is a handful, you’ll be astonished by the sassiness of her creator.”

– **SUSAN MATHESON, *BEDSIDE TABLE BOOKS***

“Thompson gets a long-overdue examination in this breezy bio. Her feud with Fred Astaire makes for some of the book’s most entertaining passages.”

– **THE ADVOCATE**

“The beauty of a biography of a lesser-known but influential figure like Kay Thompson is their Zelig-like appearances in the lives of other celebrities, and here Irvin delivers.”

– **BRENT HARTINGER, *AFTERELTON.COM***

“Funny, sad, shocking, entertaining, and always riveting... this thoroughly fascinating showbiz biography... is a must-read.”

– **STEVE WEINSTEIN, *EDGE***

“Mesmerizing. Sam Irvin has written one the *great* showbiz biographies, about a fascinating, brilliant, difficult rara avis. Thompson comes dazzlingly to life in these pages and the research alone is but one of the book’s many jaw-dropping assets. Liza Minnelli was the big get for Irvin in terms of interviewees and she rewarded him with a wealth of memories that help to make this one of the best performer bios ever done.”

– DAVID NOH, GAY CITY NEWS

“Oh, Kay—a figure perhaps unfamiliar to contemporary generations but surely one of the ‘missing link’ seminal peeps of 20th-century showbiz. And her greatest lasting contribution might just have been literary, as the author of the Eloise books.”

– ROBERTO FRIEDMAN, THE BAY AREA REPORTER

“Sam Irvin, in his charming and very informative biography, *Kay Thompson: From Funny Face to Eloise*, follows a young woman, Kitty Fink, on the arc of her fabulous career, as she reinvents herself as Kay Thompson. Thompson had a hand, or at least a finger, in so many Hollywood movie productions (she mentored Garland in her early years in Hollywood) as well as putting together a plethora of musical acts—famously launching the career of Andy Williams.

Whenever there was some show biz problem, Kay was the go-to-gal for the fix.”

– JOHN MITZEL, BOSTON’S CALAMUS BOOKSTORE NEWSLETTER

“*Kay Thompson: From Funny Face to Eloise* is on my list of the Grooviest Books of the Year! Thanks, Sam, for writing such a groovy book about such a fascinating lady.”

– MARC HARSHBARGER, DEEP DISH: GROOVY GAY POP CULTURE

“If Kay Thompson were here today to read what Sam Irvin has written about her she’d be sure to declare him a *rootie-tootie* with tons of *bazazz*. And if you don’t know what those terms mean then consider it even more reason to read this *great* biography of a show business legend.”

**– DAVID EHRENSTEIN, AUTHOR OF
OPEN SECRET: GAY HOLLYWOOD**

“Exhaustive doesn’t begin to describe the comprehensive body of information Sam Irvin has compiled—not just for his definitive book *Kay Thompson: From Funny Face to Eloise*, but also for the encyclopedia of endnotes published exclusively on his website. I’ve barely scratched the surface. What’s more, Irvin captures the verve—and the nerve—with which Kay lived her high-octane life.”

**– BEN ALBA, AUTHOR OF INVENTING LATE NIGHT:
STEVE ALLEN AND THE ORIGINAL TONIGHT SHOW**

“Oh Kay! ‘Page turner’ is a pallid description for this book. The episodes of the *Playhouse 90* presentation of *Eloise* and the Kay-Fred number in *Funny Face* are so good that I re-read them twice. They’re like short stories. Very satisfying.”

**– MARK A. VIEIRA, AUTHOR OF HURRELL'S HOLLYWOOD
PORTRAITS AND IRVING THALBERG**

“Kay Thompson? Light years ahead of her time no matter what the decade. I would have given a great deal simply to sit at a table with her for one meal and just listen. Sam Irvin's loving tribute not only made me want to hear and see Kay... it made me want to watch re-runs of the Andy Williams show. THAT'S how good it is!”

**– CAROLYN HENNESY, ACTRESS AND BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
*THE SECRET LIFE OF DAMIAN SPINELLI***

“What a wonderful read this was!

Kay Thompson was a complicated, talented, multi-pronged dynamo whose life was way overdue for being documented and at long last it has.”

– MARTIN TURNBULL, AUTHOR OF *THE GARDEN ON SUNSET*

“A kaleidoscopic tour of American show business from the 1920s through the 1970s. When it came to my desk on publication day I sank right in and haven't been seen since. One of my favorite books this year.”

– KEVIN KILLIAN, AUTHOR OF *IMPOSSIBLE PRINCESS*

“I loved this book! A great, gossipy and heartfelt read, with just enough respect—and disrespect—for its subject to make it that most rare of biographies: a real, live, breathing story about a real, live, breathing person. I didn't know much about Kay, I have to admit. But this book grabs you in the first few pages and *makes* you want to know more about this woman. Her influence in popular culture notwithstanding, it is a terrific story about how a nobody decided to become a *somebody*. And did. It's a terrific read, beautifully done. Highly recommended.”

**– RON OLIVER, DIRECTOR OF
*THIRD MAN OUT: A DONALD STRACHEY MYSTERY***

“Simply smashing! This book has brought back one of the bright lights of both Broadway and New York at a time when we really need to be reminded just how entertainers like Madonna and Lady Gaga were allowed to exist in the first place. I read this 384-page book in one sitting, something I don't do very often. Sam Irvin has gone the distance in locating and connecting all the dots in the zany world in which Kay Thompson lived, going from Hollywood to New York, then Rome, where she drifted as surely as if her old classmate Tennessee Williams had written her into his Roman Spring as a real-life Mrs. Stone. This is an exhaustive biography making Kay Thompson the skeleton key for anyone interested in Broadway or Hollywood from an insider's perspective.

You owe it to yourself to spend an evening with Kay Thompson and *think pink!*”

– DAVID DEL VALLE, *FILMS IN REVIEW*

“Kay was the Genius Who Never Was. Think of her reputation if she'd accepted all of those juicy roles. Congratulations on what's both an amazing amount of research and a compelling read.”

– BRUCE GOLDSTEIN, NEW YORK'S FILM FORUM CINEMAS

“A superbly crafted portrait of one of the least appreciated giants of 20th-century American show business. Biographer Sam Irvin not only rescues Thompson from unjust obscurity but also examines the remarkable multifacetedness of a career that spanned six decades. And he does so with the sort of vivid panache that was Thompson’s lifelong stock-in-trade. Thanks to painstaking research and revealing interviews, Irvin fully grasps Thompson’s Auntie Mame vivacity.”

– **CHRISTOPHER LOUDON, JAZZ TIMES**

“Irvin’s book is more than just a well-written tale of a life. In my ten years of reviewing books professionally for *Modernism Magazine* and other publications, I have never seen any book, in any genre, so extensively and precisely sourced. Indeed, Irvin’s endnotes for his work are so extensive they are published separately, on the Web, and updated frequently. It’s not every day a celebrity biography is this good, or this knowledgeable. If you love Hollywood, love music, love *Eloise* or just love the idea of a bio that tells both what the author feels is the truth and WHY he thinks it’s the truth—get this one. You won’t regret it.”

– **SANDY McLENDON, FORMER SENIOR EDITOR, MODERNISM**

“Kay worked with absolutely everyone, and was friends with the greats, including Noël Coward. Not only is there quite a bit about Noël in this book, there’s also a ton of fun, gossip, and a fabulous anecdotal history of 20th-century radio, theatre, and film.”

– **KATHY WILLIAMS, THE NOËL COWARD SOCIETY**

“With Mr. Irvin as our guide, we see that Thompson really did attain several levels of fame... [with] no less than five full-blown careers... Comprehensive, yes. But could we truly understand this ridiculously complicated whirlwind without all these details?”

– **STEVEN SUSKIN, PLAYBILL**

“Sam Irvin captures the essence of legendary composer, actress, and children’s author Kay Thompson in this page-turning biography... including her scandalous love-affair with a teenage Andy Williams and her mentorship of goddaughter Liza Minnelli.”

– **ZACHARY STEWART, THEATERMANIA.COM**

“Kay Thompson was her own greatest creation, and Sam Irvin’s at once affectionate and judicious biography definitively captures the essence of this one-of-a-kind star like lightning in a champagne flute. With meticulous research and lively narrative zest, he never shies away from the darker aspects of Thompson’s life, including her obsession with plastic surgery and her dependence on amphetamines. He dissects Thompson’s two volatile marriages, while deconstructing rumors that she was a lesbian. Indeed, he chronicles a number of Thompson’s intense heterosexual love affairs, including one with a much younger Andy Williams.”

– **BROADWAYWORLD.COM**

“It’s the most riveting biography of at least this year and certainly many more.”

– **PETER FILICHIA, THEATERMANIA.COM**