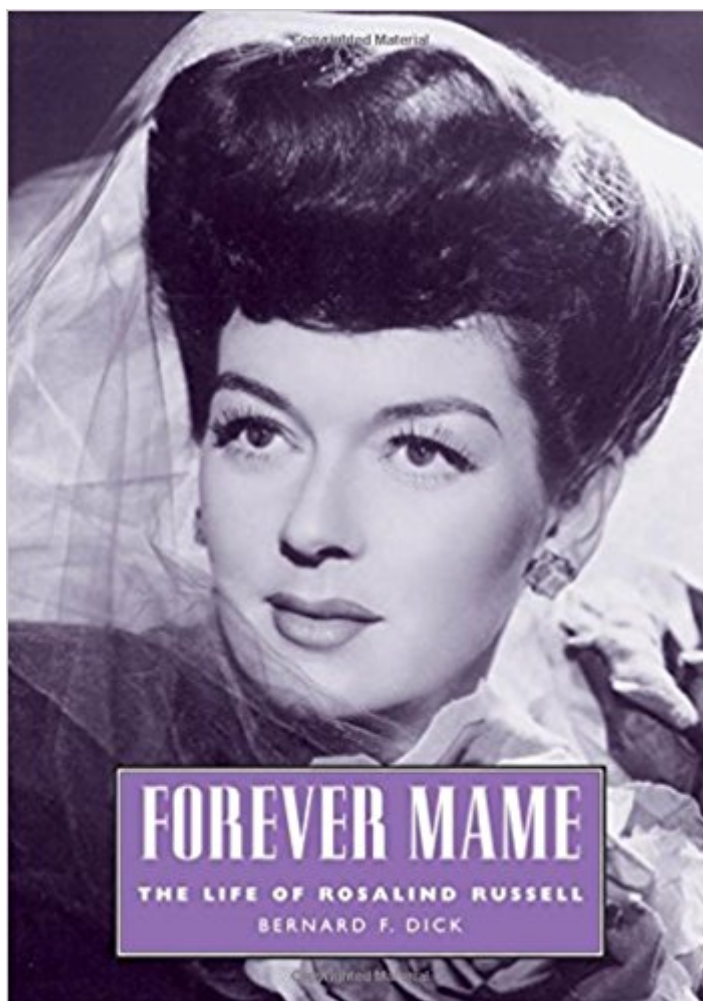


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# Forever Mame: The Life Of Rosalind Russell (Hollywood Legends Series)



## Synopsis

When it comes to living life to its fullest, Rosalind Russell's character Auntie Mame is still the silver screen's exemplar. And Mame, the role Russell (1907-1976) would always be remembered for, embodies the rich and rewarding life Bernard F. Dick reveals in the first biography of this Golden Age star, *Forever Mame: The Life of Rosalind Russell*. Drawing on personal interviews and information from the archives of Russell and her producer-husband Frederick Brisson, Dick begins with Russell's childhood in Waterbury, Connecticut, and chronicles her early attempts to achieve recognition after graduating from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Frustrated by her inability to land a lead in a Broadway show, she headed for Hollywood in 1934 and two years later played her first starring role, the title character in *Craig's Wife*. Dick discusses all of her films along with her triumphal return to Broadway, first in the musical *Wonderful Town* and later in *Auntie Mame*. *Forever Mame* details Russell's social circle of such stars as Loretta Young, Cary Grant, and Frank Sinatra. It traces an extraordinary career, ending with Russell's courageous battle against the two diseases that eventually caused her death: rheumatoid arthritis and cancer. Russell devoted her last years to campaigning for arthritis research. So successful was she in her efforts to alert lawmakers to this crippling disease that a leading San Francisco research center is named after her.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although the author has written several other biographies, this look at Rosalind Russell, the film star

best known for playing Auntie Mame, offers very little revelation about her life, her times, or even her personality. Dick's research is very skimpy, relying heavily on Russell's memoir and various film archives. While the plot of every movie and play in which Russell performed is impressively recounted, there is virtually no insight into her major relationships, nor what drove her to become a movie star. Worse yet, the narrative proves hard to follow, full of repetition, awkward phrasings and obvious filler. It's easy to tell that many of the facts and anecdotes told here come from other sources, but the author rarely acknowledges them, and the odd way he paraphrases leaves some stories too convoluted to follow. Russell, who turned in skilled performances in *His Girl Friday* and *Wonderful Town*, appears to have been a woman of interesting contradictions: she was a devout Catholic, married for 35 years, but enjoyed making risqué films and befriending men of ill repute like Frank Sinatra. Readers will be left wishing Dick had put more effort and skill into bringing that woman to life. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This account of the full and rewarding life of a Golden Age Star --- Is the first full-length biography of Rosalind Russell, the star of such classics as *Auntie Mame*, *Wonderful Town*, and *His Girl Friday* --- Includes research from Russell's archives as well as those of her husband, film producer Frederick Brisson --- Includes over 25 photographs --- Expands the Hollywood Legends Series

It really was a filmography, and not much about her as a person. Took a while to wade thru it.

I enjoyed learning about her life as she was one of my favorite actresses. She was so good in all of her parts

Just couldn't get into it.

Rosalind Russell has always been a favorite of mine. Reading her story made me realize that when she died we lost a wonderful person, not just a wonderful actress!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this well written biography on one of Hollywood's best loved actresses, the one and only Rosalind Russell. Being born and raised in Waterbury, Ct. myself, it was really interesting to read about my hometown and how it formed Miss Russell to become the person that she did. This is not one of your typical "kiss-and-tell" books. There are no controversial stories in this

book which I found to be quite refreshing. Miss Russell was a deeply religious person but at the same time she is not being portrayed as a person without flaws either. Miss Russell lived a very full, rich life with her husband and her son but her life, unfortunately, was cut short at the age of 69 by cancer. All in all, this biography is a fascinating look at a fascinating woman. I highly recommend it!

This was one of the best biographies I've ever read, especially of a film personality. Mr. Dick has researched his subject thoroughly and has gleaned all facets of her personality. He gives the impression of really having uncovered her inner traits and, in particular, her ability to maintain a private person sharing a life with a rather different screen persona. One senses that members of her immediate family, as well as good friends and colleagues were interviewed in depth, resulting in a full portrait of this fine woman and superb actress. Her triumphs ("Auntie Mame" and "Gypsy") and her disappointments (the 1946 Oscar loss to Loretta Young, for example) are impartially recounted, leaving the impression of a well-rounded woman and professional, able (to paraphrase) Rudyard Kipling, to treat triumph and disaster just the same. A book to savor and enjoy re-reading.

Unfortunately, I have to give at least 1 star. This is an awful book. Another "biography" that is nothing more than a synopsis of her movies. Bernard Dick does an excellent job of pointing out what Rosalind Russell left out of "Life is Banquet", but does nothing to fill in the gaps. At one point he mentions the uncatagorized papers at UCLA (?) but obviously took no time to review any of them. I don't think he did any research other than online. I couldn't read past the 3rd chapter. Do not waste your money on this book. Watch her movies, you'll have a far better understanding of who Rosalind Russell was.

I was excited to read this biography of one of my favorite actresses, but could barely get through it. The bulk of the book is just a filmography with detailed synopses and strangely subjective insights about the successes or failures of the films. I found myself just skimming chapters TRYING to find something that I couldn't learn just through watching the films. Not worth your time.

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