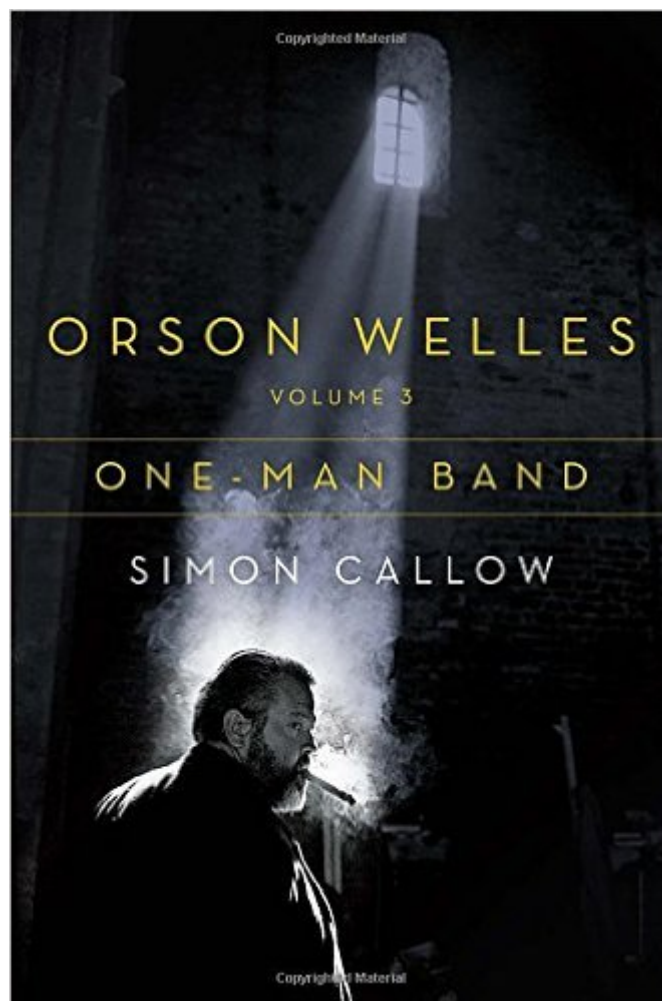


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# Orson Welles, Volume 3: One-Man Band



## Synopsis

â A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice â The third volume of Simon Callow's acclaimed Orson Welles biography, covering the period of his exile from America (1947-1964), when he produced some of his greatest works, including *Touch of Evil*. In *One-Man Band*, the third volume in his epic and all-inclusive four-volume survey of Orson Welles's life and work, the celebrated British actor Simon Callow again probes in comprehensive and penetrating detail into one of the most complex, contradictory artists of the twentieth century, whose glorious triumphs (and occasional spectacular failures) in film, radio, theater, and television introduced a radical and original approach that opened up new directions in the arts. This volume begins with Welles's self-exile from America, and his realization that he could function only to his own satisfaction as an independent film maker, a one-man band, in fact, which committed him to a perpetual cycle of money raising. By 1964, he had filmed *Othello*, which took three years to complete; *Mr. Arkadin*, the most puzzling film in his output; and a masterpiece in another genre, *Touch of Evil*, which marked his one return to Hollywood, and like all too many of his films was wrested from his grasp and reedited. Along the way he made inroads into the fledgling medium of television and a number of stage plays, of which his 1955 *London Moby-Dick* is considered by theater historians to be one of the seminal productions of the century. His private life was as spectacularly complex and dramatic as his professional life. The book reveals what it was like to be around Welles, and, with an intricacy and precision rarely attempted before, what it was like to be him, answering the riddle that has long fascinated film scholars and lovers alike: Whatever happened to Orson Welles?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Simon Callow's "Orson Welles, Volume 3: One-Man Band" is the penultimate volume in his magnificent epic biography of the Academy Award-winning international filmmaker, covering his prolific years of 1947-1964. During this period, Welles directed five films (Touch of Evil, Othello, Mr. Arkadin, The Trial and Chimes at Midnight), wrote, helmed or starred in seven stage productions (which included directing Laurence Olivier in the acrimonious production of Eugene Ionesco's Rhinoceros) and acted in more than three dozen films (including The Third Man, Moby Dick, King Lear, The Long, Hot Summer, Compulsion and The V.I.P.s). He also married his third wife, fathered his third daughter and burned a lot of bridges in Hollywood. Actor, director and biographer Callow (Charles Laughton: A Difficult Actor) writes with energy, fluidity and the astute knowledge of an industry insider and historian. While Callow has great admiration for the filmmaker, he is not blind to Welles's excesses, ego, volcanic rages and his constant need for new stimulation that often left projects abandoned in the hands of others--whom he would later rail against for destroying his work. As Eartha Kitt observed, "If one was not quick enough, Orson lost patience." Three volumes in, Welles (1915-1985) continues to be a ceaselessly fascinating subject--an artist with unbridled enthusiasm and creativity for his projects, who could not abide any form of constraint or interference. Callow's insightful, analytical and entertaining biography captures the magic and mania of Orson Welles and his work. Simon Callow's third volume in his epic Orson Welles biography is epic, fascinating and entertaining.

This is Orson Welles in all his complexity, from filming his landmark Othello and MacBeth through his European exile, the making of Touch of Evil, The Trial and Chimes at Midnight, and struggles as an actor, director and celebrity. Resuming his multi-volume bio after the Hollywood years, Simon Callow is honest enough to show the flaws (and there were many), but never loses sight of Welles' originality and genius. Must-read film history.

Orson Welles was a big man weighing almost 300 pounds. Welles was also the possessor of a giant ego, intellect and gusto for life in all of its forms,. Welles Renaissance Man life is being extensively chronicled by Simon Callow. Callow is a British actor, author and expert on Welles. In this volume we follow Welles career and personal life from 1947 through 1968. The protean Welles

directed such masterpieces in this era as Mr Arkadin, Othello, Moby Dick on stage, a ballet, A Touch of Evil and won widespread fame for his eleven minute turn as the evil Harry Lime in the David Lean classic "The Third Man." This was the period of Orson's European exile during the blacklisting era in Hollywood. Welles was notorious for his left wing views. He absorbed much during his self-imposed European film career. Welles was always trying to make money to make his films such as Macbeth and Don Quixote. Welles was a one man band of rebellion against staid Hollywood slick productions and Victorian era morality. Welles could be selfish, combative and behave like the consummate narcissistic personality he was. He was also a great artist. Simon Callow's erudite prose and analysis of Welles makes this one of the best biographies ever written of an entertainer in print. Not for everyone but film buffs, Welles fans and anyone wanting to learn more about the magical world of moviemaking will enjoy this third installment.

Callow's series is amazing. Maybe more than you want to know about Welles - but he is a pretty amazing guy.

Can never get enough of Welles ...the triumphs and failures...GARGANTUAN ....well told here.

A fitting 3d vol, long awaited. Clearly Callow was meant to write this biography. Now I look forward to vol. 4.

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