

STARLIGHT AND STARGAZERS

**Slavic Screen
Celebrities**

“If you think that the phenomenon of celebrities is exclusively associated with the culture of the capitalist West, then the fascinating book *Starlight and Stargazers* will certainly set you straight. This is the first such insightful work revealing a multilayered picture of Slavic celebrities over the course of a century (from the 1920s to the present day). In a thrilling way, the authors explore how celebrities in Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and the Czech Republic seduced audiences; how the creation of celebrities differed under the communist system compared to the capitalist system; and whether celebrities’ images were shaped by the needs of the market or by the dominant ideology. This book makes an important contribution to the development of research on Central and Eastern European cinema and culture and significantly expands knowledge in the study of celebrities. It will be of interest not only to the academic community, but also to audiences sensitive to celebrity glamor.”

— Sebastian Jagielski, Associate Professor of Film Studies,
Jagiellonian University, Poland

“*Starlight and Stargazers* meets the daunting challenge it sets for itself: analyzing the phenomenon of celebrity across multiple Slavic cultures in order both to provide useful, compelling case studies and advance our understanding of celebrity itself. The book produces a remarkably useful form of estrangement; because of the broad geographic and cultural scope, readers will encounter celebrities they know well, and celebrities they are hearing about for the first time. If there is any justice, *Starlight and Stargazers* will have its own fifteen minutes of fame.”

— Eliot Borenstein, Professor of Russian & Slavic Studies,
New York University

“With its focus on the image and life of Slavic screen celebrities, *Starlight and Stargazers: Slavic Screen Celebrities* offers a theoretically sophisticated look into the popular field of *celebrity studies*. Flexible in its variety of scholarly approaches, this outstanding collection of essays treats this complex phenomenon from a refreshingly new scholarly perspective. Considering celebrity culture as a national and international phenomenon, researchers in this volume highlight its standard and individual features. Conceptually ambitious, this study unlocks the extraordinary intersection between Slavic cultures that transcend national boundaries.”

— Marina Balina, Isaac Funk Professor Emerita, Professor of
Russian Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University

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Edited by Helena Goscilo

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