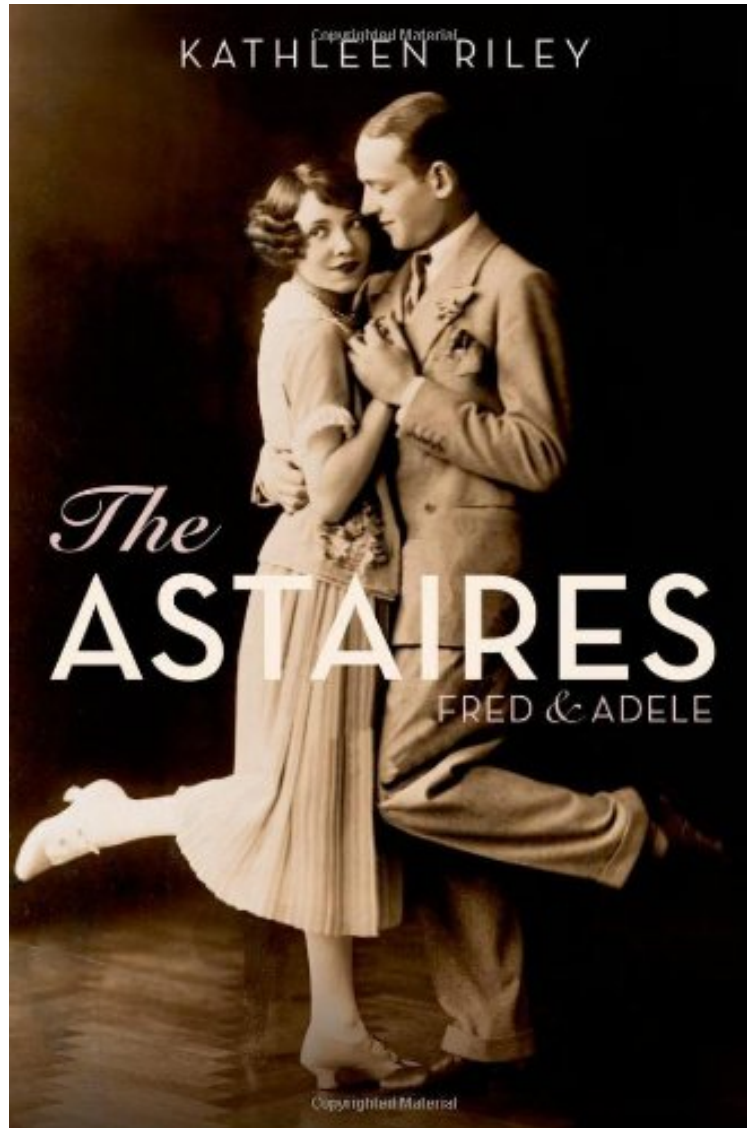


[Download pdf ebook] The Astaires: Fred Adele

## The Astaires: Fred Adele

*Kathleen Riley*

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**Kathleen Riley : The Astaires: Fred Adele** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Astaires: Fred Adele:

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. A light and wonderful read By Fast Eddy If you grew up watching Fred Astaire dancing in those early black and white musicals as I did, then this is a book for you to learn about his sister Adele. I had no idea that Fred and Adele Astaire were so enormously popular as a stage act in both London and New York prior to Adele's retirement and Fred's film career. She was apparently the anchor in the stage act, much as

Grace Allen was for George Burns. The author's liberal use of reviews from the stage era of the Astaires' act bring alive what it must have been like to see them in a theater. Fast Eddy1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. CharismaticBy HHKathleen Riley's "The Astaires: Fred Adele" is a reminder that the quintessential pairing was not Fred and Ginger, but Fred and Adele, his sister and greatest partner. Adele Astaire was natural, spontaneous, funny, incredibly talented as a dancer, and generally recognized as the bigger star of the pair. She never made movies, however, leaving the stage in 1931 to marry a British nobleman. Fred went off to Hollywood almost as a desperate measure, while his sister, whose husband turned out to be an alcoholic, suffered a series of stillbirths, denying her the children she longed for. She is now almost forgotten, but if she had stayed on Broadway, she would have probably danced there for several more decades. What a great loss!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A marvelous life of two magic peopleBy Michael T KennedyThis is a wonderful biography of the two people who revolutionized theater and later movie musicals. The author has written the book as a history, chiefly, of the brother and sister during their stage career. Adele retired in 1931 and married the son of the Duke of Devonshire. Her married life was not very happy and she failed to produce a child with multiple miscarriages. Fred carried on but soon began his movie career. Fred married and was very happy until his wife died young of cancer. The history of his later life is abbreviated and I would recommend those interested in more might find some good stories in RJ Wagner's biography as they were close for years in Fred's later life.

Before "Fred and Ginger," there was "Fred and Adele," a show-business partnership and cultural sensation like no other. In our celebrity-saturated era, it's hard to comprehend what a genuine phenomenon these two siblings from Omaha were. At the height of their success in the mid-1920s, the Astaires seemed to define the Jazz Age. They were Gershwin's music in motion, a fascinating pair who wove spellbinding rhythms in song and dance. In this book, the first comprehensive study of their theatrical career together, Kathleen Riley traces the Astaires' rise to fame from humble midwestern origins and early days as child performers on small-time vaudeville stages (where Fred, fatefully, first donned top hat and tails) to their 1917 debut on Broadway to star billings on both sides of the Atlantic. They became ambassadors of an art form they helped to revolutionize, adored by audiences, feted by royalty, and courted socially by elites everywhere they went. From the start, Adele was the more natural performer, spontaneous, funny, and self-possessed, while Fred had to hone his trademark timing and elegance through endless hours of rehearsal, a disciplined regimen that Adele loathed. Ultimately, Fred's dancing expertise surpassed his sister's, and their paths diverged: Adele married into British aristocracy, and Fred headed for Hollywood. The Astaires examines in depth the extraordinary story of this great brother-sister team, with full attention to its historical and theatrical context. It is not merely an account of the first part of Fred's long and illustrious career but one with its own significance. Born at the close of the 1800s, Fred and Adele grew up together with the new century, and when they reached superstardom during the interwar years, they shone as an affirmation of life and hope amid a prevailing crisis of faith and identity.

"Although I was extremely close to both my father and my aunt, in this informative book Kathleen Riley has captured the essence of their lovely spirits far better than I could."--Ava Astaire McKenzie "Of the many books on Fred Astaire, this is the most unique. Focusing on Fred's amazing partnership with his sister, Adele, Kathleen Riley has produced a work of remarkable depth and nuanced detail."--Ken Barnes, Writer and Producer "With this book, Kathleen Riley has given Adele her proper place in the life and legacy of her brother. Recreating a time when 'celebrity' meant talent, charisma and dedication with her evocative prose, this book is a 'must' for Astaire and musical theatre history fans."--Larry Billman, author FredAstaire: A Bio-Bibliography and Film Choreographers and Dance Directors"We are so accustomed to thinking of 'Astaire' teamed up with 'Rogers' that we overlook Astaire's stage career with sister Adele. That story is told with elegance an"Riley writes with zest and authoritative expertise, displaying a grace and elegance equal to her subjects." -- Publishers Weekly"Although I was extremely close to both my father and my aunt, in this informative book Kathleen Riley has captured the essence of their lovely spirits far better than I could."-- Ava Astaire McKenzie "A fascinating look at a movie icon and a revealing snapshot of theater history." -- Booklist"We are so accustomed to thinking of 'Astaire' teamed up with 'Rogers' that we overlook Astaire's stage career with sister Adele. That story is told with elegance and authority in Kathleen Riley's enthralling, thoroughly researched The Astaires, a book that sheds further light on an important period in Fred Astaire's pre-screen career." -- Peter Evans, Emeritus Professor of Film Studies, Queen Mary, University of London "Of the many books on Fred Astaire, this is the most unique. Focusing on Fred's amazing partnership with his sister, Adele, Kathleen Riley has produced a work of remarkable depth and nuanced detail."-- Ken Barnes, Writer and Producer"With this book, Kathleen Riley has given Adele her proper place in the life and legacy of her brother. Recreating a time when 'celebrity' meant talent, charisma and dedication with her evocative prose, this book is a 'must' for Astaire and musical theatre history fans."-- Larry Billman, author FredAstaire: A Bio-Bibliography and Film Choreographers and Dance Directors"Kathleen Riley's book on Fred and Adele--the first full-scale study--is a welcome rehabilitation...The Astaires is a salute to an America at ease with itself and doing something wonderful in the song-and-dance line that seemed, for a time, like the hottest thing in the culture." -- The Wall StreetJournal"In her fascinating new book The Astaires, the Australian theater

historian Kathleen Riley describes the exploits of this brother-sister team in glorious detail." -- The New York Times Book "Riley writes with zest and authoritative expertise, displaying a grace and elegance equal to her subjects." -- Publishers Weekly "A fascinating look at a movie icon and a revealing snapshot of theater history." -- Booklist "The Astaires: Fred and Adele is a page-turner of a biography, briskly written and immaculately researched. Author Kathleen Riley has, among other things, been given access to audio recordings of Adele Astaire that allow her to tell her story with an authority uncommon in modern biographies. This is an excellent work, well worth reading." --The New York Journal of Books "With this book, Kathleen Riley has given Adele her proper place in the life and legacy of her brother. Recreating a time when 'celebrity' meant talent, charisma and dedication with her evocative prose, this book is a 'must' for Astaire and musical theatre history fans."-- Larry Billman, author FredAstaire: A Bio-Bibliography and Film Choreographers and Dance Directors "We are so accustomed to thinking of 'Astaire' teamed up with 'Rogers' that we overlook Astaire's stage career with sister Adele. That story is told with elegance and authority in Kathleen Riley's enthralling, thoroughly researched The Astaires, a book that sheds further light on an important period in Fred Astaire's pre-screen career." -- Peter Evans, Emeritus Professor of Film Studies, Queen Mary, University of London "Of the many books on Fred Astaire, this is the most unique. Focusing on Fred's amazing partnership with his sister, Adele, Kathleen Riley has produced a work of remarkable depth and nuanced detail."-- Ken Barnes, Writer and Producer "Although I was extremely close to both my father and my aunt, in this informative book Kathleen Riley has captured the essence of their lovely spirits far better than I could."-- Ava Astaire McKenzie About the Author Born in Australia and educated at Sydney and Oxford Universities, Kathleen Riley is a classical scholar and modern theater historian. She is the author of Nigel Hawthorne on Stage and The Reception and Performance of Euripides' Herakles: Reasoning Madness. At Oxford in 2008 she convened the first international conference on the art and legacy of Fred Astaire.