



## Van Johnson: Mgm s Golden Boy

By Ronald L. Davis

University Press of Mississippi, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Van Johnson s dazzling smile, shock of red hair, and suntanned freckled cheeks made him a movie-star icon. Among teenaged girls in the 1940s, he was popularized as the bobbysoxer s heartthrob. He won the nation s heart, too, by appearing in a series of blockbuster war films - A Guy Named Joe, Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo, Weekend at the Waldorf, and Battleground. Perennially a leading man opposite June Allyson, Esther Williams, Judy Garland, and Janet Leigh, he rose to fame radiating the sunshine image Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer chose for him, that of an affable, wholesome boy-next-door. Legions of adoring moviegoers were captivated by this idealized persona that generated huge box-office profits for the studio. However, Johnson s off-screen life was not so sunny. His mother had rejected him in childhood, and he lived his adult life dealing with sexual ambivalence. A marriage was arranged with the ex-wife of his best friend, the actor Keenan Wynn. During the waning years of Hollywood s Golden Age, she and Johnson lived amid the glow of Hollywood s A-crowd. Yet their private life...



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