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# Blackface to Blacklist: Al Jolson, Larry Parks, and "the Jolson Story"

*Doug McClelland*

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**Doug McClelland : Blackface to Blacklist: Al Jolson, Larry Parks, and "the Jolson Story"** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blackface to Blacklist: Al Jolson, Larry Parks, and "the Jolson Story":

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Jolson Stories I and II will always stand alone at the top. By L. Thomas I have spent a lot of time in libraries and have studied theatre extensively, but have not seen the time spent and the extensive examination of a movie as is done in this publication. I believe it is well worth the effort as these two movies stand alone as the best bio pics to date. True, today's fascination with all things computerized, etc. tend to make it seem dated. However, if you set it in the time it was made and the reception it received, you can peel back the gimmicks and see it for the movie it is about the man who is probably and always will be the world's greatest entertainer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By thomas grieshoberg great read for jolson junkies 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Guess Who Didn't Sing Again. By Ray Carnay I could probably add another "star" to the rating of this book if McLelland would make at least one correction. This is really not a review but rather an important comment. Important, at least, to me. On a back page of "Blackface to Blacklist" is a photo of Saul Silverman. He is credited as having dubbed the cantorial voice for papa Yoelson (Ludwig Donath) in both the Jolson Story and Jolson Sings again. Doug is HALF right. Silverman did the cantorial dubs for Donath in The Jolson Story. In Jolson Sings Again, however, the voice was that of Ray Carnay who was the Cantor at

Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills. Since I am the one who did the cantorial vocal I'd like to set the record straight. My Columbia press releases, photo with thanks inscribed by Donath and countless news articles in my files lend credence to my claim. I'd like to get this information to McClelland. The International AL Jolson Society has already received this information and corrections will be made in their archives and future releases. Great memories! Ray Carnay 1336 Emerald Park Dr. Eugene, OR 97404-2708 541/461-6161 541/688-2242 541/688-1234

Originally published in 1987 by Scarecrow Press, an illustrated history of the 1946 Hollywood biographical musical, *The Jolson Story*, and its star, Larry Parks. It chronicles the career of Parks, particularly the deterioration following his admission to holding Communist beliefs.

Wonderful...a first rate piece of work.--Leonard Maltin  
About the Author  
Doug McClelland, a former newspaper and magazine editor, is a writer-lecturer on film. He is the author of eleven books, including *Susan Hayward: The Divine Bitch*, *Down the Yellow Brick Road: The Making of the Wizard of Oz*, and *Hollywood on Ronald Reagan*. He has written for such periodicals as *After Dark*, *Films in*, *Films of the Golden Age*, and *Hollywood Studio Magazine*.