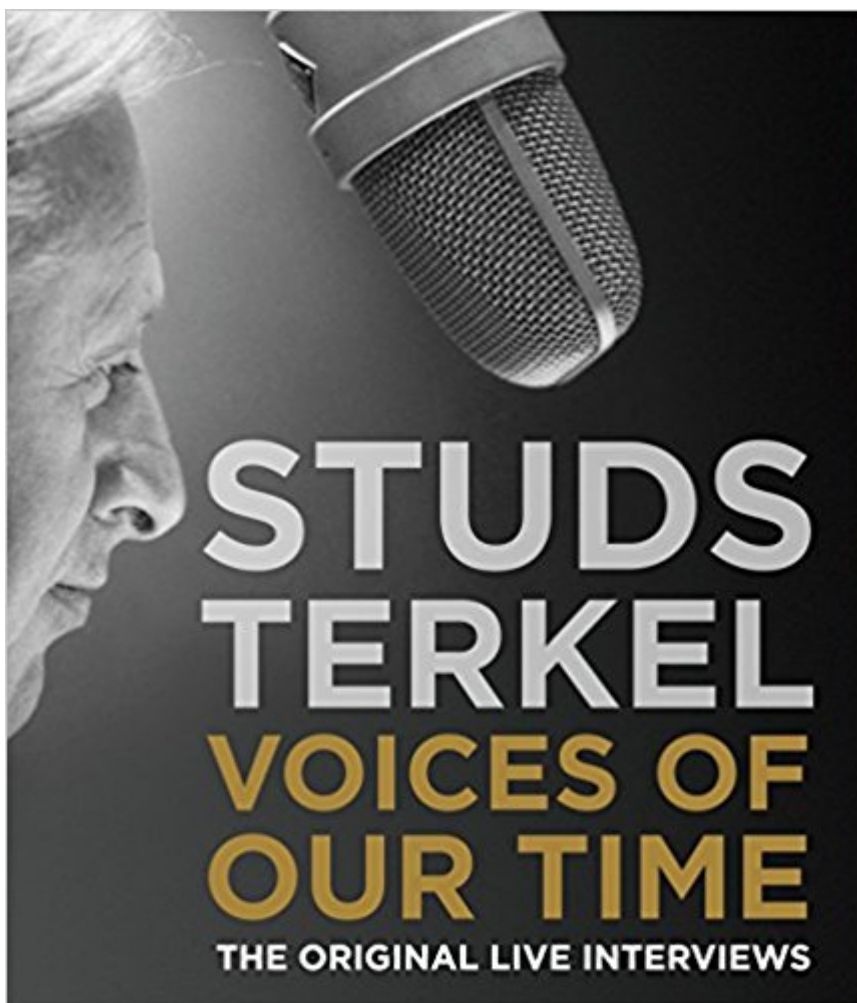


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# Voices Of Our Time: The Original Live Interviews



## Synopsis

From the 1950s through 1997, Louis "Studs" Terkel, bestselling author of *Hard Times*, *Working*, *The Great War*, *Coming of Age*, and eight other books, hosted a daily one-hour show on WFMT Radio in Chicago. This nationally syndicated, Peabody Award-winning program was an ideal showcase for his curmudgeonly wit, his maverick opinions, and his genius as an interviewer. The 48 interviews in this collection, span Terkel's five decades on radio and encompass a wide range of entertainers, scientists, writers and thinkers, including Dorothy Parker, Pete Seeger, Bob Woodward, Simone de Beauvoir, and many more.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: HighBridge Audio; Unabridged edition (May 5, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 156511969X

ISBN-13: 978-1565119697

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 16 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #238,901 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Radio > History & Criticism #41 in Books > Books on CD > Radio Shows #50 in Books > Books on CD > History > United States

## Customer Reviews

Today, in the age of Charlie Rose and other TV interviewers, impromptu conversations with authors, actors and musicians are a common part of the cultural landscape. But back in the 1950s, when Chicago radio journalist Terkel was interviewing the likes of Pete Seeger, Dorothy Parker and James Baldwin, the practice was radically original. Excerpts from 48 interviews, first broadcast on Terkel's daily show on WFMT, are presented here, with one cassette devoted to each decade from the '50s to the '90s. Thanks to engineering wizardry, the fidelity of this archival material is so fine that there is a shock of immediacy in hearing these voices speak across time. That's also due to Terkel's freshness of attitude throughout, which translates beautifully into the contemporary moment. His style of questioning is disarmingly quiet: his whispery voice and self-effacing charm elicits unusually personal and considered responses. As a writer, Terkel is known for his use of oral history (*The Good War*, etc.); here he presents what he calls the "taped history" itself. Among the

other luminaries included are Gore Vidal, Bertrand Russell, Eudora Welty, Woody Allen, Ralph Ellison and R. Buckminster Fuller. This is a beautifully packaged and sensitively edited program, a graceful and important audio-specific title. (June) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
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Terkel's skilled interviews with celebrities were distilled from his radio broadcasts spanning 1940-98. His friendly, tolerably gruff voice, knowledge of each person's interests, and quiet modesty allow the guest to expound on favorite subjects. Terkel enthusiastically joins comedians Mel Brooks and Zero Mostel in droll charades; he invites some authors like Eudora Welty to read snippets from their books; composers like Aaron Copeland, singers like Pete Seeger, and musicians like Leonard Bernstein are accompanied by short selections of their work. Clarity of the talk, whether recorded on studio equipment or a portable tape recorder, is pleasantly consistent. Recommended for popular libraries. AGordon Blackwell, Eastchester, NY Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
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Studs Terkel is a wonderful interviewer, and over the past five decades he has interviewed many of the great thinkers, writers, and doers of our time. The ones he chose for this collection include Aaron Copland, Oliver Sacks, Margaret Mead, Daniel Ellsberg, Maya Angelou, Pete Seeger, John Kenneth Galbraith, and dozens of others. All together, they provide a fascinating portrait of the last half of 20th century. Highly recommended!

If you want to hear what famous people in history (going back to the 1950's) thought about the world, then you should listen to these DVD's. Terkel is a masterful interviewer who digs into each subject with knowledge and enthusiasm. He has important figures from each period talking about their philosophy. Sometimes even before they have become famous, like Woody Allen. He speaks with authors, singers, musicians, writers, and other artists mostly. It helps pass the time during a commute. If you love history and listening to interviews, you will love this.

These interviews do NOT disappoint!!! They are concise, interesting and provide a clear crystal-like glimpse into each person Stud's interviews. I wish there were more. Studs manages to be down to earth yet not fawning. Charlie Rose, take lesson from Studs! When will there be more???

Celebrity interviews: Studs did it first! Studs may still be the best! The interviews on this collection do

not leave the listener wanting more. Studs does it "just right"! He is the master of the obvious - he asks the questions that we'd ask if the subjects were sitting at our dinner table. On this collection he talks to Gore Vidal, Bertrand Russell, Woody Allen, Dorothy Parker and Pete Seeger, just to name a few. Studs was non-confrontational though he never failed to ask the hard questions. This is a refreshing collection of interviews with important and interesting subjects conducted by a master. Well worth your time and money.....bg

For brief periods of time I shared moments with people I've read, saw on TV, film, listened to - some I've admired, some I wasn't too sure of, but these little glimpses into the past, into moments of time are magical - the sounds of everyday life, the coffee being drunk, the cigarette inhaled, an intake of breath, the traffic outside a Manhattan hotel window in a decade long since passed, an interviewee singing a song, telling a story, sharing a joke, moments of sadness, laughter - none of it polished, rehearsed, plastic and perfect, all of it 'real' - it's a wonderful CD and Studs Terkel a Master Interviewer.

He captures quickly and simply the essence of persons who were the fabric of our culture in the 20th Century. Studs never showboats or gets in the way of our listening and getting a feeling about what those people were all about. They're short bites--8 or 10 minutes each. Some witty, some self-involved, some boring. But all interesting.

Perfect gift for my husband and really great interviews.

Terrific dvd

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