



## Searching for John Ford: A Life

*Joseph McBride*

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John Ford's classic films---such as *Stagecoach*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *How Green Was My Valley*, *The Quiet Man*, and *The Searchers*---earned him worldwide admiration as America's foremost filmmaker, a director whose rich visual imagination conjured up indelible, deeply moving images of our collective past.

Joseph McBride's *Searching for John Ford* surpasses all previous biographies of the filmmaker in its depth, originality, and insight. Encompassing and illuminating Ford's myriad complexities and contradictions, McBride traces the trajectory of Ford's life from his beginnings as "Bull" Feeney, the nearsighted, football-playing son of Irish immigrants in Portland, Maine, to his recognition, after a long, controversial, and much-honored career, as America's national mythmaker. Blending lively and penetrating analyses of Ford's films with an impeccably documented narrative of the historical and psychological contexts in which those films were created, McBride has at long last given John Ford the biography his stature demands.

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