By Annette Förster

Women in the Silent Cinema
Histories of Fame and Fate

This magisterial book offers comprehensive accounts of the professional itineraries of three women in the silent film in the Netherlands, France and North America. Annette Förster presents a careful assessment of the long career of Dutch stage and film actress Adriënne Solser; an exploration of the stage and screen careers of French actress and filmmaker Musidora and Canadian-born actress and filmmaker Nell Shipman; an analysis of the interaction between the popular stage and the silent cinema from the perspective of women at work in both realms; fresh insights into Dutch stage and screen comedy, the French revue and the American Northwest drama of the 1910s; and much more, all grounded in a wealth of archival research.

“This is an excellent, meticulously developed source, and the accessible style of Förster’s writing – as well as her avoidance of unnecessary jargon – will make it appealing to non-specialized readership.”

Agata Frymus, University of Ghent, Early Popular Visual Culture 2018

“This book is for anyone who wants to keep their historiographical perspective on the popular culture of early and classical modernism alive - proving once again that everywhere (and down to the level of individual biographies) one must reckon with cultural-traditional and creative interpretations to really understand the range of the individual forms of performance and also the entire popular cultural landscape of the time.”

Peter Ellenbruch, Duisburg-Essen, Medienwissenschaft 2018

Awarded as “outstanding works for their excellence in presentation and scholarship, the significance of their contribution to the field, their originality and value as an essential treatment of their subject, and significance in building undergraduate collections.”

Women in the Silent Cinema included in Choice Review’s annual Outstanding Academic Titles list for 2017