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Ayn Rand: The Playboy Interview (Singles Classic) (50 Years Of The Playboy Interview)



Synopsis

In mid-1962, Playboy founder Hugh Hefner was given a partial transcript of an interview with Miles Davis. It covered jazz, of course, but it also included Davis's ruminations on race, politics and culture. Fascinated, Hef sent the writer's future Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Alex Haley, an unknown at the time back to glean even more opinion and insight from Davis. The resulting exchange, published in the September 1962 issue, became the first official Playboy Interview and kicked off a remarkable run of public inquisition that continues today and that has featured just about every cultural titan of the last half century. To celebrate the Interview's 50th anniversary, the editors of Playboy have culled 50 of its most (in)famous Interviews and will publish them over the course of 50 weekdays (from September 4, 2012 to November 12, 2012) via the Kindle Direct platform. Here is the interview with the novelist and philosopher Ayn Rand from the March 1964 issue.

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Customer Reviews

The thought of reviewing any of Ayn Rand's works kind of fills me with dread because any statement, positive or negative, about the work will be interpreted by many as a statement about the entire philosophy she created, Objectivism. I put myself in the Robert Nozick camp, that being a belief that Rand's ideas are quite respectable and should be respected and taught, rather than snubbed, at the academic level, but without buying into everything root and branch. That said, this Playboy interview is electric and has held up extremely well over time. Published in March 1964, Rand provides crisp, clear and coherent responses to the questions by interviewer Alvin Toffler. In just a relatively few short pages, one gets the idea behind objectivism as well as its implications. A free economy is essential in a moral society, not in and of itself, but as a system that allows a free mind to exist. Rand is right on point that socialism's link to atheism allowed it (and to a large extent still does) to be characterized as the more rational system, opposed to the mysticism of capitalism, whose supporters often explicitly linked it to a belief in God. Rand is thought-provoking throughout. Her response as to the dividing line between a mixed economy and a dictatorship is by itself worth the price of admission. Given that the Left is now all in on censorship to suppress speech (and indeed, even thought) in defense of its racist and feminist agendas, it is striking that Rand, close to half a century ago, recognized that censorship was the final nail in the coffin. Despite its short length, the reader takes away the essential idea that, really, underpins everything. That is, that it is ideas that determine social trends and ultimately a society. Change the philosophy and you have won. Whether Objectivism is the answer or not, that general principle is far, far more important than any particular policy. I am glad that Playboy has made these individual interviews available through . Let us hope more with substance like this one come along.

Ayn Rand: The Playboy Interview (50 Years of the Playboy Interview) A very comprehensive and straightforward interview by Alvin Toffler, author of Future Shock. Quote from the Atlas Society: At a time when Rand's books and ideas were often maligned and misrepresented by the media, Toffler and the editors of Playboy treated her seriously and respectfully. The introduction characterizes her as "among the most outspoken--and important--intellectual voices in America today." And at a time when Rand had as yet published little non-fiction, the interview served as one of the best comprehensive statements of her views. If you're looking to understand the core basics of Objectivism philosophy and how it applies to life, this is a very straightforward and honest example of how it all works from the mind of its creator, Ayn Rand. Alvin Toffler has done an excellent job by asking many key questions in his attempt to define how Objectivism fits into the world of politics, love, religion, art, and ultimately...mankind. For anyone who needs to understand the basics of this

philosophy this interview is a very good place to begin. Devlin Scott (Lyshan Press)

The old gambit about "reading Playboy for the articles" is actually true when you consider the many great interviews they published, especially during the classic period between the late 1950s and the 1970s. (I admit to having enjoyed the magazine for the pictures as well as the articles in my youthful period from the mid-60s up to the mid-70s...) This interview is particularly good for the person who would like to learn more about Ayn Rand and her Objectivist philosophy. The questions and answers lay out the facts with clarity and mostly free of philosophical jargon (that you typically find in the more academic style non-fiction works by Rand). I greatly enjoyed reading this interview (again, as I probably read it in the original magazine version in 1964). Note that this is a direct reproduction of the original as it appeared. There has been no updating of any of the material, so the introduction, in particular, will seem somewhat dated. Nonetheless, I highly recommend this title.

It is that good! It is Ayn Rand at her best...and the Interviewer is fabulous, forward-thinking, sensitive, provocative, and completely knowledgeable of his antagonist, Ayn Rand. A literary masterpiece.

Ms. Rand provides concise answers to a wide range of topics -- topics that are covered elsewhere in more detail. I really enjoy how she clarifies the interviewer's muddled questions before answering them. Playboy: You are a declared anticommunist, antisocialist, and antiliberal. . . Rand: Correction. I never describe my position in terms of negatives. I am an advocate of laissez-faire capitalism, of individual rights, . . . of freedom.

It is a good look at consistent philosophy at work, in the face of broad antagonism to the assumed meaning of that philosophy

Ayn Rand was a major gift to this world. She, unlike other philosophers, instruct us in the methods of philosophy. Anyone who is serious about their mind and logic should read and understand her disciplined view. That, of course, does not mean you must agree with her on every point but to agree or disagree one should understand her teachings. In this interview, Playboy, by their questions, appeared to be taken somewhat off guard, as she had a different take from the sophomoric "Playboy Philosophy, we enjoyed in college. What is interesting are Rand's views but also how she handled the questions.

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