

IN CAMERA: HOLLYWOOD SCANDALS, LEGAL TRUTHS

Episode 1: The Trials of Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle

Show Notes & Sources

EPISODE SUMMARY

In September 1921, silent film star Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle was charged with manslaughter after actress Virginia Rappe died following a Labor Day party at San Francisco's St. Francis Hotel. What followed were three trials, a hung jury twice, and a final acquittal – with the jury issuing a written apology to Arbuckle. The prosecution's key witness never took the stand. Arbuckle was exonerated, but his career was over.

SOURCES

Books

- Yallop, David. *The Day the Laughter Stopped*. St. Martin's Press, 1976.

Archival & News Sources

- peoplevsarbuckle.com – "Spite Work: The Trials of Virginia Rappe and Fatty Arbuckle"
- Smithsonian Magazine – smithsonianmag.com/history/the-skinny-on-the-fatty-arbuckle-trial-131228859/
- PBS NewsHour – pbs.org/newshour/health/the-sexual-assault-case-that-shocked-hollywood-almost-a-century-ago
- Bar Association of San Francisco – sfbar.org/blog/sfam-the-many-trials-of-fatty-arbuckle/
- Encyclopedia.com / Great American Trials – encyclopedia.com/law/law-magazines/fatty-arbuckle-trials-1921-22
- EBSCO Research Starters – ebSCO.com/research-starters/history/film-star-fatty-arbuckle-acquitted-manslaughter
- Constitutional Rights Foundation – crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-11-1-c
- Wikipedia – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roscoe_Arbuckle (secondary reference)

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