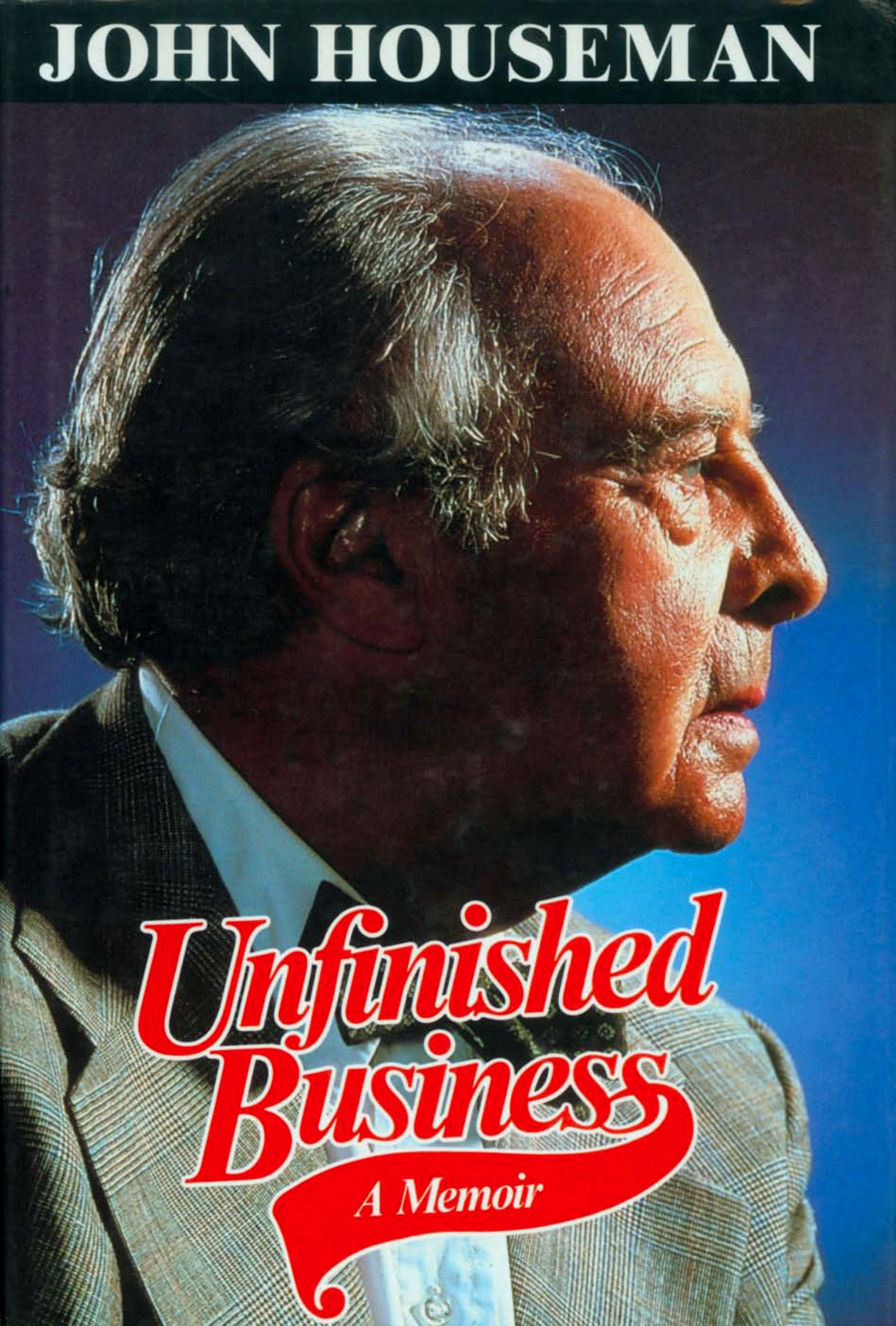


JOHN HOUSEMAN



*Unfinished
Business*

A Memoir

Unfinished Business

At the age of seventy, John Houseman won an Oscar for his first acting role, as Professor Kingsfield in the classic *The Paper Chase*. As actor, producer, director and teacher, he is now internationally renowned as one of the driving forces in American film, theatre and television of the last fifty years.

Born in Rumania at the beginning of the century, he had an unconventional European childhood, and made an inauspicious though briefly successful start on a business career in the international wheat market, before his debut in the New York theatre world.

The first of his many dramatic partnerships was with the composer Virgil Thomson, staging Gertrude Stein's opera *Four Saints in Three Acts* in 1934. Together with the young Orson Welles he created the voodoo *Macbeth*, the legendary Mercury Theater, the political musical *The Cradle Will Rock* and the terrifying radio adaptation of *The War of the Worlds*; and Houseman later worked with Herman Mankiewicz on the script of *Citizen Kane*. Houseman became a distinguished Hollywood and Broadway producer, working with two generations of major writers, actors and filmmakers throughout the world, including Alfred Hitchcock, Nicholas Ray, Leslie Howard, Marlon Brando, Charles Laughton, Raymond Chandler and Bertolt Brecht.

This eloquent memoir is an intelligent and candid portrait of an age, by one of its most admired stars.

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John Houseman

John Houseman was born in Bucharest in 1902, brought up in Paris and educated at a British public school. He is married and lives in Los Angeles and New York.

Photos on back of jacket:

top, l. to r. Martha Graham; John Houseman;
centre, l. to r. Bertolt Brecht, Charles Laughton;
Orson Welles; Marlon Brando;
bottom, l. to r. Morris Carnovsky, Katharine
Hepburn; Kirk Douglas.

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Jacket design: Behram Kapadia

Chatto & Windus Ltd
40 William IV Street
London WC2N 4DF

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ISBN 0-7011-3127-6



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