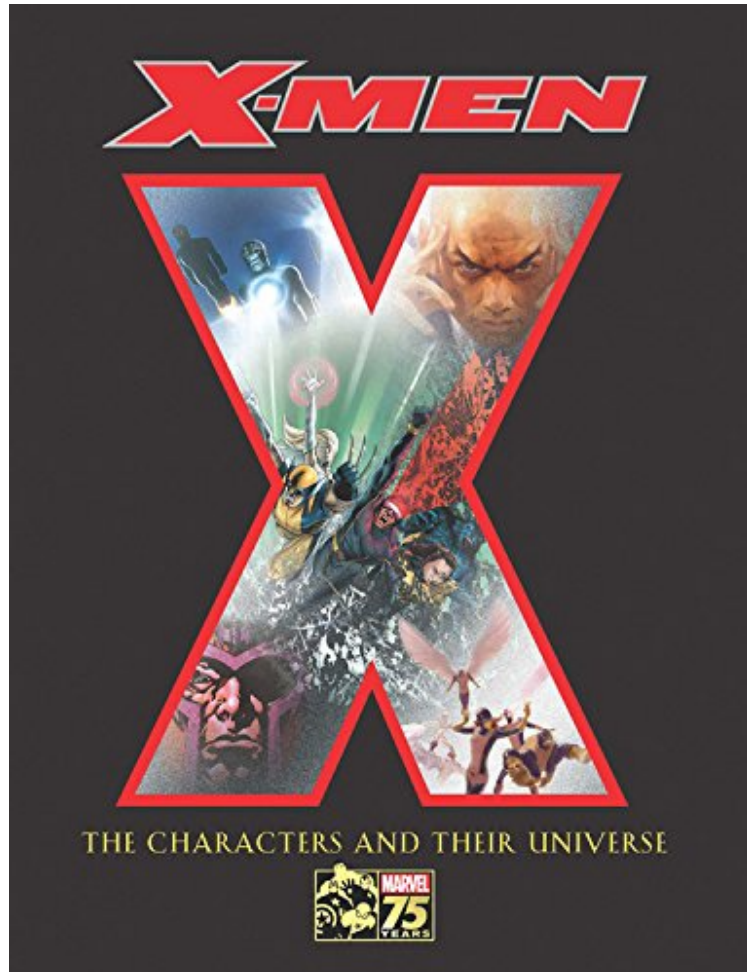


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## X-Men: The Characters and Their Universe

*Michael Mallory*

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**Michael Mallory : X-Men: The Characters and Their Universe** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised X-Men: The Characters and Their Universe:

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can I say, I'm still a nerd for this stuff and I love having the backstory at my fingertips.

X-Men: The Characters and Their Universe tells the story of this unique band of comic book heroes from their creation in 1963 by the dream team of writer Stan Lee and artist Jack Kirby, through their late 1970s re-emergence as a platform for socially and politically relevant storytelling, and up to the present as one of the globe's hottest franchises. This colorful, lavishly illustrated volume also traces how the characters have been adapted into the media of television and film, including the ground-breaking 1992 animated series and the blockbuster feature films, including X-Men III: The Final Stand, released in May of 2006. For fans of the comic books, this volume also provides a unique one-source catalogue of every major character that appeared from 1963 to the present, including all the various teamings of characters, the significant comic book series, the various character relationships and evolutions, and the classic storylines that have all woven together over the decades to create the dazzlingly complex and fascinating tapestry of the world of mutants. X-Men: The Characters and Their Universe is a book that no fan of Marvel Comics, of super heroics, of animation and action adventure filmmaking, even of popular culture of the late 20th century itself, will want to be without.

.com X-Men: The Characters and Their Universe is a huge, oversize coffee-table book that should entertain a wide variety of X-fans. Author Michael Mallory wrote the same-sized Marvel: The Characters and Their Universe, and now benefits from a narrower focus on a single group: their comic books, movies, TV shows, and memorabilia. Published in 2006, the nearly 300-page tome covers topics as recent as House of M, 1602, and the third movie, X-Men: The Last Stand (though only passing mention of Joss Whedon's Astonishing X-Men) Also covered are the development of the team from the Stan Lee-Jack Kirby days through the 1975 revamp through the various spin-off series such as Age of Apocalypse and X-Force, and alternate realities (the great Days of Future Past story line). If you have gaps in your X-knowledge, this is a good resource for filling them, but X-perts may simply dig the large pictures of key covers and panels, movie stills, sketches, and Greg Horn's luscious take on Emma Frost. --David Horiuchi  
About the Author Michael Mallory is the author of X-Men: The Characters and Their Universe, Universal Studios Monsters: A Legacy of Horror, and The Science Fiction Universe and Beyond: Syfy Channel Book of Sci-Fi. He has written about animation for such diverse publications as Animation, Comics Scene, Disney News, In Toon, Inbetweeners, The Hollywood Reporter, Millimeter, On Production, and Digital Diner. He is former editor of Animation magazine and a frequent contributor to Daily Variety.