The Many Hats of Robert Altman: A Life in Cinema

Daub, Peggy; Gomis, Melissa; Hallman, Phil

http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/110220
Altman's approach to the classic Western film was to strip away the romanticism and common plots in order to present real people in gritty and challenging circumstances. Here, in one of his most revered films, Altman shows a complex world of deals and business, a world built on enterprise, gambling, and money from McCabe’s saloon and Mrs. Miller’s brothel. Instead of heroes in white hats, the film’s leads were a cowardly man and a businesswoman addicted to opium. This film has been selected for inclusion in the National Film Registry.

“I just wanted to take a very standard Western story with a classic line and do it real or what I felt was real, and destroy all the myths of heroism.”
- Robert Altman