

A LUCKY LUKE ADVENTURE **78**



THE DALTON UNCLER

ACHDÉ, GERRA & PESSIS
IN THE STYLE OF MORRIE



9th CINEBOOK
The 9th Art Publisher

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THE DALTON UNCLLES

Artwork: ACHDÉ
Script: LAURENT GERRA & JACQUES PESSIS
In the style of MORRIS



Colours: MEL



Morris, a genius of the Ninth Art!

The father of Lucky Luke was born in 1923 in Kortrijk, Belgium. After starting out in cartoon studios, he created Lucky Luke, his world, and the main characters of the series, whose first adventures would appear in 1947 in *L'Almanach de Spirou*. For several years afterwards, Morris plied his trade in the United States with his friends André Franquin and Joseph Gillain and the stars of satirical *Mad* magazine, Kurtzman, Davis, and Wood; meanwhile, *Lucky Luke* found its place in the world of comics thanks to its simple design, its expressiveness, and the instincts of its creator. In fact, Morris's way with words brought forth the now-famous phrases 'The man who shoots faster than his own shadow' and 'the ninth art'.

Ten volumes later, he met René Goscinny, who would become Lucky Luke's writer for almost 40 volumes. Several others followed in Goscinny's footsteps. Today, the saga of the Lonesome Cowboy created by Morris encompasses close to 90 volumes. Early on, Morris displayed a passion for film and animation, and he closely monitored the many adaptations of his work.

It was during production of the final 52 episodes of the series, titled *The New Adventures of Lucky Luke*, that Morris passed away, on 16 July 2001. He remains one of the superstars of comic book creators. His characters and the world he created have become timeless.

*Caricature of Morris, by the artist himself

My thanks to Thierry Coquelet, talented caricaturist before God, for his help and his invaluable advice on how to create some of the larger-than-life characters that pop up in this book.

Achdé

To my friend Georges Lautner.

To Georges Cecillon and Didier Grand, two specialists of *bande dessinée*. **Laurent Gerra**

To our beloved Michel Audiard. **Jacques Pessis**

This volume is heavily inspired by the 1963 French film *Les Tontons Flingueurs*, by Georges Lautner. The film has become a classic in French culture, with instantly recognisable quotes and even sound effects. It is (poorly) known in English as either *Monsieur Gangster* or *Crooks in Clover*.

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