



The Golden Age of Cinema: Hollywood, 1929-1945

By Richard Jewell

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The Golden Age of Cinema: Hollywood, 1929-1945 By Richard Jewell

This comprehensive book illuminates the most fertile and exciting period in American film, a time when the studio system was at its peak and movies played a critical role in elevating the spirits of the public. Richard B. Jewell offers a highly readable yet deeply informed account of the economics, technology, censorship, style, genres, stars and history of Hollywood during its "classical" era.

- A major introductory textbook covering what is arguably the most fertile and exciting period in film, 1929-1945
- Analyzes many of the seminal films from the period, from *The Wizard of Oz* to *Grand Hotel* to *Gone with the Wind*, considering the impact they had then and still have today
- Tackles the shaping forces of the period: the business practices of the industry, technological developments, censorship restraints, narrative strategies, evolution of genres, and the stars and the star system
- Explores the major social, political, economic, and cultural events that helped to shape contemporary commercial cinema, as well as other leisure activities that influenced Hollywood production, including radio, vaudeville, theatre and fiction
- Written in a jargon-free, lively style, and features a number of illustrations throughout the text

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Editorial Review

Review

"Rick Jewell has been teaching a course on classical Hollywood moviemaking at USC for some years but has never found a textbook that suited his needs. As a result he has written one, and it's excellent. Jewell has taken on the daunting task of surveying the social history of the period, the business side of Hollywood, changes and advancement in technology, censorship, narrative and style, genres, and the star system. Whew! I can't imagine a better introduction to this subject matter. The book is scrupulously well organized and uses specific examples whenever possible instead of dealing in generalities." *Leonard Maltin's Movie Crazy* (www.leonardmaltin.com)

"Some believe that American film peaked between the Stock Market Crash and the end of World War II. Richard B. Jewell's *The Golden Age of Cinema* sharply delineates how the film industry worked during the period, casting light on the movies as business, technology, social document, and popular art."

Charles J. Maland, University of Tennessee

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Richard B. Jewell is the Hugh M. Hefner Professor of American Film at the University of Southern California. He is the author of *The RKO Story* (1982).

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