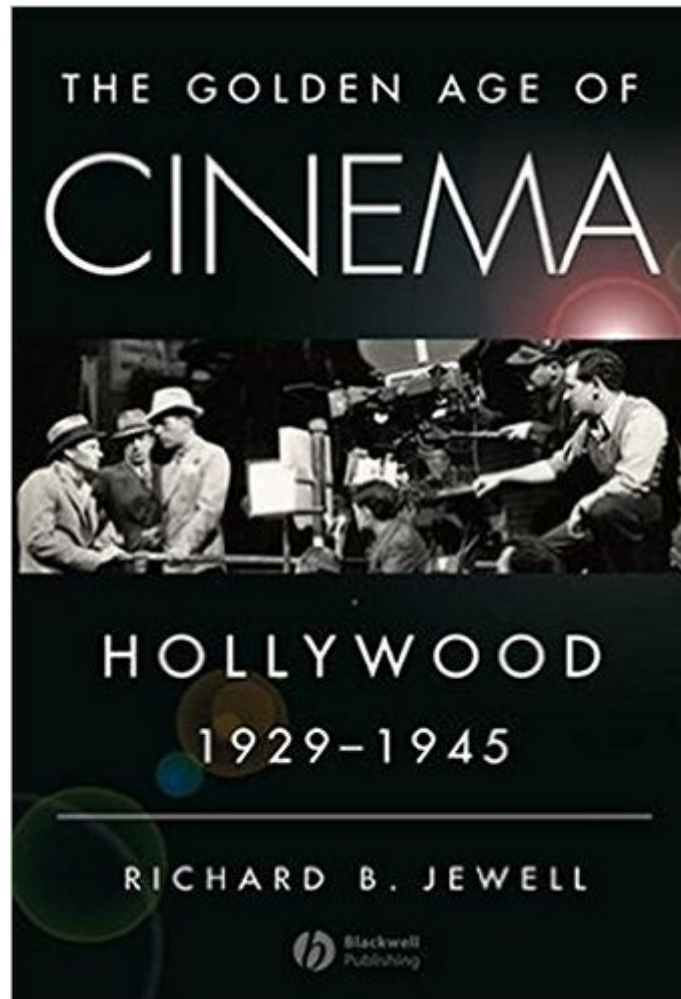


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# The Golden Age Of Cinema: Hollywood, 1929-1945



## Synopsis

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

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Professor Jewell's book on the "Golden Age" of Hollywood movie-making is a great introduction to the way the Hollywood studios worked in the first 20 years of sound, from 1926 to 1945 (with some nods to the post-war period). What makes the book invaluable is the breadth of his approach. He covers not only what was going on in Hollywood but also in the broader areas of the entertainment arts (radio, stage, books, even sports) competing with movies for consumers' attention and money.

He covers not only the spectrum of entertainment arts but also what was going on culturally and even politically in the period. For example, he shows how the rise of censorship in Hollywood movies in 1932-4 related to the economic downturn of the Depression, which had hurt box office returns, seducing the studios into releasing more films featuring sex and violence. In spite of being a manageable 300 pages, the book gets into specifics to prove its points, citing box office grosses and profits for the movies mentioned. In discussing movies by genres and styles, Professor Jewell offers loads of titles of representative and excellent movies to watch and review. Anybody who never got the chance to attend one of Professor Jewell's classes at the USC School of Cinema, where he's one of the top two most popular lecturers, can now make up for it by reading this book and renting some of the movies he mentions. It's a great way to start to understand what made this period of Hollywood filmmaking so extraordinary.

A fascinating account of Hollywood during a significant part of its development. This was a time when the major movie studios firmed up their hold on the film industry and the distribution of pictures. Important personalities and movie moguls are identified and examined carefully to provide an understanding of the influence and power they exerted. The book also discusses the critical new technical developments in film that included sound and color. This is a well researched and written book on a fascinating time in the history of American film making, and the role Hollywood played during the Depression, post Depression and World War II.

I have read this book, and I consider it to be a nice orderly presentation of the different facets and stages that the film industry went through during the Golden Age. It presents us with plenty of movie examples to make the point, not just trend-bucking movies that defined or stretched the era, but also plenty of examples of period-piece movies which faithfully cover the essence of the era. This book is split up into several different topics, including but not limited to censorship, genres, stars, and the studio system. This would make a decent Golden Age introductory text for the film student.

Very comprehensive view of the motion picture industry, innovations, practices, technical developments, and relationships between labor, stars and businesses. Very interesting to see how much the industry has changed over the years.

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