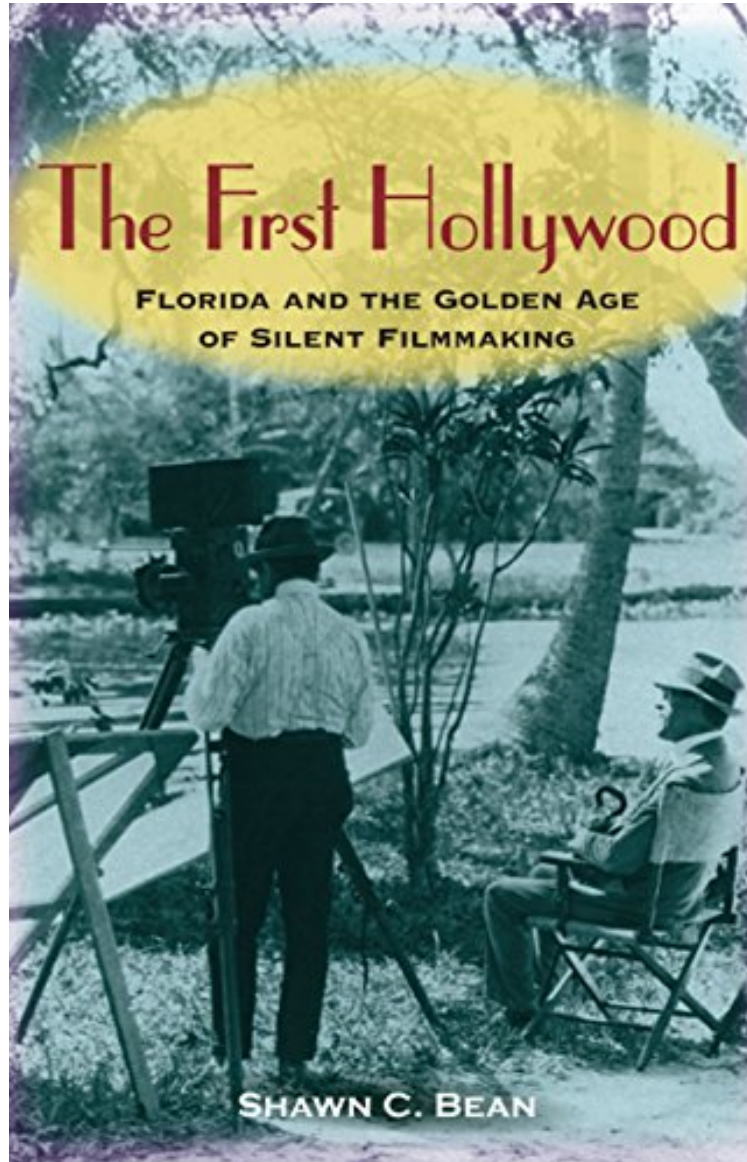


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The First Hollywood: Florida and the Golden Age of Silent Filmmaking

Mr. Shawn C. Bean

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Mr. Shawn C. Bean : The First Hollywood: Florida and the Golden Age of Silent Filmmaking before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First Hollywood: Florida and the Golden Age of Silent Filmmaking:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lights, Action, CameraBy Marcus W. PernodOccasionally an article

might appear in Florida newspapers about how Jacksonville at one time was the motion picture capital of America. Of the 30 or so studios in Jacksonville, there was Metro Studios (which became part of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer). A fat guy named Oliver Hardy came down from Georgia to perform either as a villain or in a comic role. This was ten or more years ago before he was paired with Stan Laurel. The city's greatest architect, H. J. Klutho, helped to rebuild the city after its great fire of 1901 (the worst in the Southeast), but Klutho went broke trying to run, or rent out, his own studio. Shawn Bean tracks the film career of Richard E. Norman, who turned to making films solely for African American audiences. He purchased the bankrupt Eagle Studios and made feature films there until sound came in. In fact, the Norman Studios buildings still exist and are the ONLY silent film studio complex still standing. Bean tracks why Jacksonville, in effect, rejected its chance to become "Hollywood." The conservative town's ministers objected to shoot-em-ups being shot on Sundays downtown; the citizens tired of false fire alarms being called in just so a company could film the trucks bursting out of the fire stations. A 1917 election campaign between pro-film candidate J.E.T. Bowden and future governor John Wellborn Martin convinced many studios that it might be better to join their colleagues in some little town out in Southern California. Howard Denson Author: "Mowbray and the Sharks," "Shoot-Out with a Wild-eyed Radical," and "A Quandary of Fibles" 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book that explains how Florida lost the film industry ...By Tony Steve Great book that explains how Florida lost the film industry to Hollywood. Sadly, Jacksonville had the future in it's hands and lost it to the early fundamentalists. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Insight into Jacksonville history By Steve SAs someone who has lived in Jacksonville for 20 years, I enjoy learning about the city's (surprisingly) complex history. The book is generally well written, and Bean does a good job picking out some of the significant threads of the city's involvement with the silent film industry. Even though I knew beforehand that Jacksonville was "the first Hollywood," I was surprised to learn that luminaries such as Oliver Hardy, Mary Pickford, and the Barrymores passed through Jacksonville on their way to fame and fortune. More recently, even Mel Brooks was here trying to get his career off the ground with what would become The Producers. While the book does offer wonderful glimpses of a part of Jacksonville's past, I was left a little disappointed at aspects of the story that were left untold or only partially touched upon: what were the political forces shaping the studios' decisions to leave for California? To what extent was the development of San Jose Estates an attempt to lure the industry back? Perhaps there is more to be written on the subject. Still, to anyone interested in this part of Jacksonville's or Hollywood's history, this is well worth reading.

Jacksonville, Florida, was the king of the infant film industry. Devastated by fire in 1901, rebuilt in a wide variety of architectural styles, sharing the same geographic and meteorological DNA as southern California, the city was an ideal location for northern film production companies looking to relocate.

"A compelling story of the rise and fall of Jacksonville, Florida, as a major motion picture studio rival to Hollywood. Along the way you'll meet visionaries, film pioneers, and famous names, as well as grifters and con men." - Richard Alan Nelson, author of Lights! Camera! Florida! "Although nonfiction, at times it reads like a fast-paced novel, telling the story of how it was Jacksonville - not Hollywood - that served as this country's first film capital. A fascinating read." - Patrick D. Smith, Pulitzer- and Nobel Prize - nominated author, Florida Artists Hall of Fame inductee" About the Author Shawn C. Bean has twice been named Writer of the Year by the Florida Magazine Association. He is a former music and theater reviewer for the Miami New Times and current contributor to Florida Travel Life and Miami.