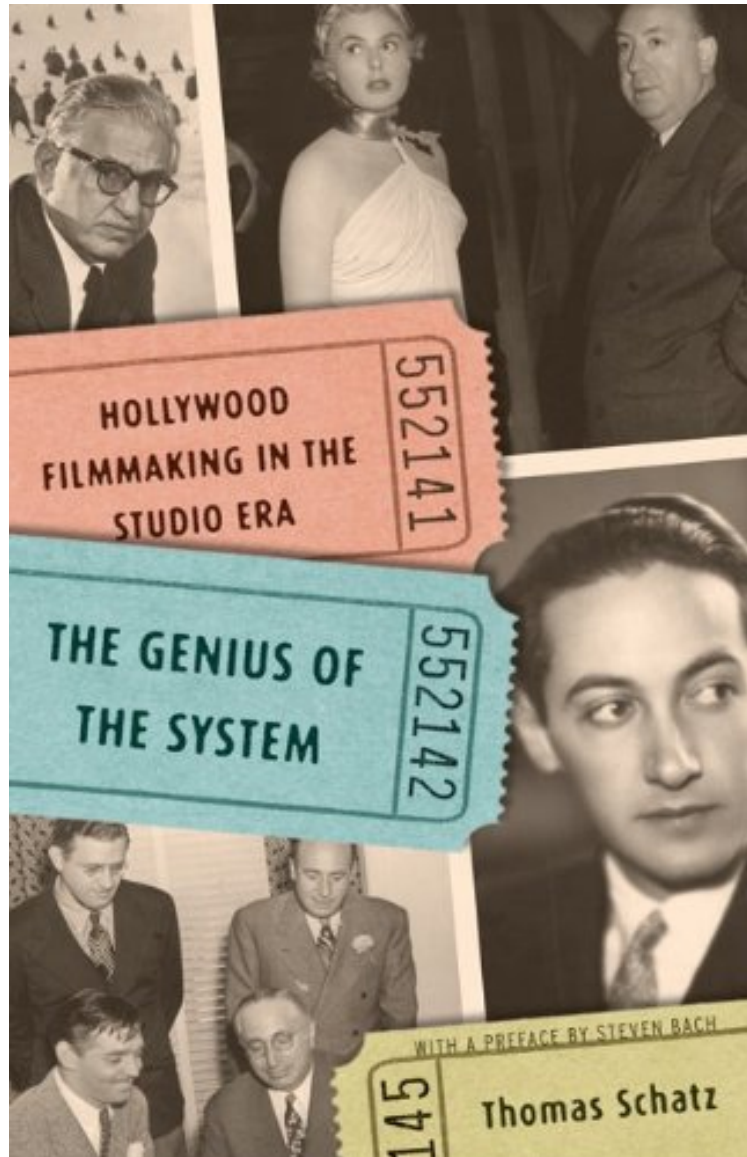


(Get free) The Genius of the System: Hollywood Filmmaking in the Studio Era

The Genius of the System: Hollywood Filmmaking in the Studio Era

Thomas Schatz

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Thomas Schatz : The Genius of the System: Hollywood Filmmaking in the Studio Era before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Genius of the System: Hollywood Filmmaking in the Studio Era:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Take a journey back in time to Hollywood of long ago!By Carolina BookhoundIf you are interested in the history of Hollywood during the studio era, this is the book for you! It is what

my history professors in college would have called the "definitive" work on the subject. That usually meant long. It certainly does not fall short in that department. Starting with the silent movie era and progressing to the advent of television, you will be familiarized with the technology, economics, and politics of the industry. If you are looking for a work filled with titillating Hollywood gossip, you are going to be disappointed. It is not that kind of book. I was a little perplexed by the weight given to various movies and personalities. For example, very little was said about the filming of *Gone With The Wind*. Yet, a great deal of space was devoted to the movies and careers of Abbott and Costello. Interesting. It is not a fast read and at times can be a bit dry, but well worth your time if you want to learn more about this colorful bygone age.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Terrific, focused, analytical book. Best read after absorbing background from a half a dozen other books on Hollywood history. By Neil Silver. Assuming you've already read half a dozen of the better books* on Hollywood and the studio system in the "classical era" (the 1930s-1950s), and you're still searching for an over-arching narrative and analytical treatment of how the studio system -- in all its variations -- actually worked, this is the book for you. You can't top it. To compare and contrast significant variations on the studio system, the author confined his archival and secondary research (and his presentation) to two major studios, one "minor major", and one independent: MGM, Warners, Universal and David O. Selznick Productions. This scholarly approach necessarily excludes other major and minor studios, including Paramount and Fox, and the author's presentation of information in support of his analysis sometimes overwhelms. But, if you love this era and want deep insights into how the studio system worked and evolved, this is the book for you. The most sparkling chapters in Schatz's book compare and contrast the personalities and work styles of Selznick and Hitchcock. *Recommend you first read several of the following: Budd Schulberg's "What Makes Sammy Run" and his memoir of growing up in Hollywood; "Empire of Their Own" by Neal Gabler; the memoirs of Irene Mayer Selznick, Frank Capra, and Elia Kazan; "West of Eden" by Jean Stein"; "The Last Mogul" re Lew Wasserman; ; and "Indecent Exposure" re the Columbia Pictures Begelman affair (the last two books deeply explore the business side of Hollywood, the evolution of Hollywood in the TV era, and the relationship between Hollywood West (LA) and Hollywood East (the NYC financial hub and anchor of the film industry -- albeit in the time frame beyond the classical era)).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must for anyone interested in the Golden Era of movie making. By cwnavy11. I was looking for a book that would take me through the development of the Hollywood movie industry from the early days through the golden era. I found it in this book. It is basically laid out in a sequential fashion, but jumps from studio to studio and even from movie to movie. Personalities are detailed as well as conflicts between individuals and studios. The behind the scenes stories of the rise and fall of various studio heads and others were fascinating. For anyone interested in an in depth review of the golden era, this book is excellent. I learned so much I had no idea about. Highly recommended.

In *The Genius of the System*, Thomas Schatz recalls Hollywood's Golden Age from the 1920s until the dawn of television in the late 1940s, when quality films were produced swiftly and cost efficiently thanks to the intricate design of the system. Schatz takes us through the rise and fall of individual careers and the making and unmaking of movies such as *Frankenstein*, *Casablanca*, and *Hitchcock's Notorious*. Through detailed analysis of major Hollywood moviemakers including Universal, Warner Bros., and MGM, he reminds us of a time when studios had distinct personalities and the relationship between contracts and creativity was not mutually exclusive.

From *Publishers Weekly*. In this original, monumental survey of Hollywood's film studios during their most glorious period, Schatz, professor at the University of Texas and author of *Hollywood Genres*, in contrast with the directorial theories of Andrew Sarris and other film historians, describes the creative give-and-take, the symbiotic accord between creators and front offices, in which the styles of writers, directors and stars fused with studio management structures, production operations, talent pools, narrative traditions and market strategies. Analytically and with anecdote examining the financial as well as creative workings of MGM, Warner Bros., Paramount, Universal and RKO in the era of Thalberg, Selznick, Zanuck and Hitchcock, Schatz demonstrates that at the heart of each studio's house style were the star-genre formulations (Bette Davis melodramas, Humphrey Bogart thrillers, Boris Karloff horror films, Gene Kelly musicals) that nowadays, as they are recirculated and rediscovered by young viewers, are all that remain of the great studios and of the vigorous, dynamic men and women who sustained them. Photos. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From *Library Journal*. Several other histories of Hollywood's studio system have already been published, including Robert Stanley's *The Celluloid Empire* (LJ 5/15/78), Douglas Gomery's *The Hollywood Studio System* (LJ 1/86), and Ethan Mordden's *The Hollywood Studios* (LJ 5/15/88). All these books have some value, but Mordden and Schatz win top honors. Larger libraries should purchase both books, as they complement each other. Mordden's primary interest is aesthetics; Schatz's is business. Mordden's writing is sometimes brilliant, while Schatz's is only good, but Schatz has obviously done a lot of research, and he puts it to good use in a very readable book. John Smothers, Monmouth Cty. Lib., Manalapan, Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. There was much to criticize in the Hollywood system, and much to marvel at. But one can't do either without the means to make sense of it. This book provides that. Elizabeth Kendall, *The New York Times Book Review* brings the pace and confusion and

inspiration of filmmaking to life...Schatz has made a lasting contribution to film history. Directors Guild of America
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