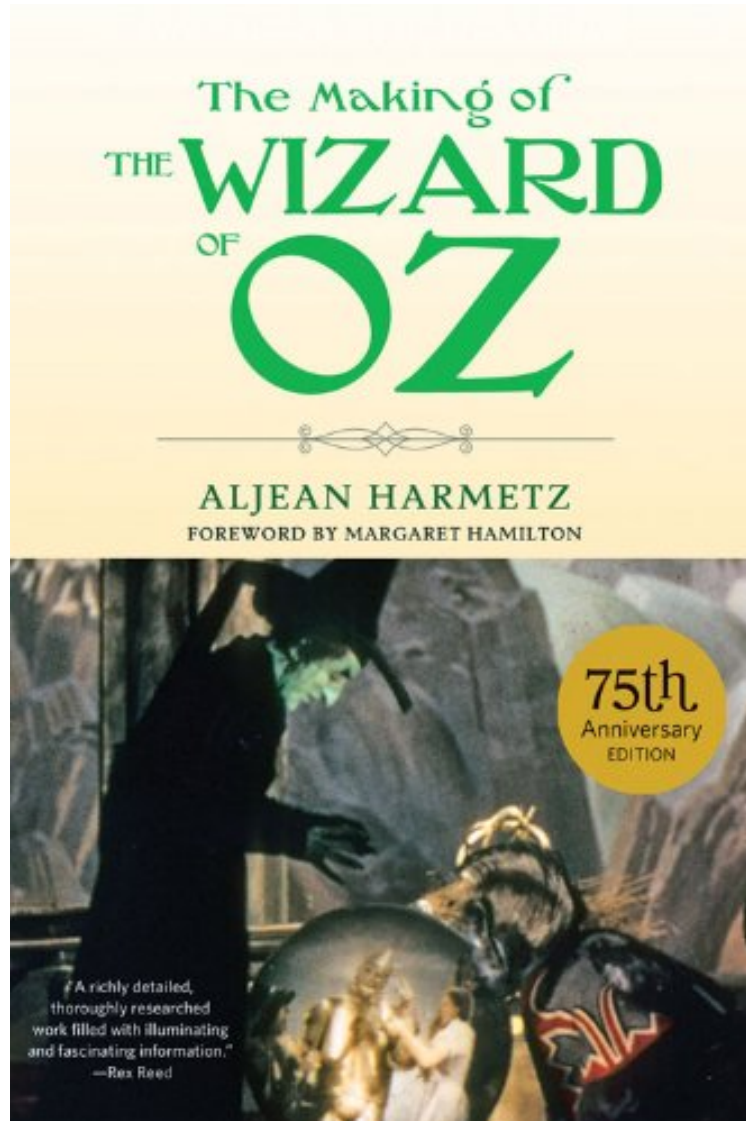


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The Making of The Wizard of Oz

Aljean Harmetz

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#448589 in Books Chicago Review Press 2013-10-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.97 x .81 x 6.101, 1.30 #File Name: 1613748329360 pages | File size: 72.Mb

Aljean Harmetz : The Making of The Wizard of Oz before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of The Wizard of Oz:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. THE BEST WIZARD OF OZ BOOK EVER!By EMCIt's so great to finally see this book back in print. I bought it when it came out years and years ago. I read and enjoyed the book so much the binding actually fell apart! Can't wait to get this new edition. UPDATE: After checking out this new printing of the book I found that the quality of the print isn't as good as the original. Quite a few of the pages have faded print and the photos are faded too. It's still the best Oz book ever but I wish it was higher quality.2 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. Great Book for "Oz" Fans and All Movie Lovers By J. Jamakaya This book covers all aspects of the making of the classic 1939 MGM film and is a must for fans. The first chapter, The Studio, lays out the setting of MGM and its place as the premiere studio in Hollywood in the 1930s. Subsequent chapters focus on the writers, music composers, directors, actors, Munchkins, behind-the-scenes workers, costumes, special effects, accidents, and the movie's public reception and legacy. The book has info about the smart little Cairn terrier who played Toto too. There is a delightful introduction written by Wicked Witch actress Margaret Hamilton for the original 1977 edition, and an appendix that supplies background on L. Frank Baum, author of the bestselling Oz books, who was pretty much a failure at everything else he did. For most of the actors, working on The Wizard of Oz was just a job and a paycheck. There are many first person accounts of the artistry and business plans behind the movie. Actors' personality quirks and rumors about the production are all discussed. The book points out that MGM did not break even financially until the movie was sold to TV networks for repeated airings in the 1950s-80s. It was because of these broadcasts, which were big annual events drawing millions of viewers, that The Wizard of Oz became such a huge cultural phenomenon and lodged itself into the hearts and minds of generations of Americans. This is a wonderful book for "Oz" fans and movie lovers in general.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not as good as I hoped it would be. By JP If you are interested in reading about the inner workings of the movie's production and behind-the-scenes type info about the Wizard of Oz movie, then this is not the book you want. Much more time is spent discussing the intricate background and histories of various directors, actors and studio heads, with precious little time spent discussing the actual movie and its production. I will say that when the author does discuss events relative to the movie's production, the info is very interesting. There are several quotes gathered from past interviews of the major actors and others actually involved in the movie which are interesting and the stories provided by Ms. Hamilton are easily the highlight of the book. But to me, the most annoying aspect of the book was the patchwork style in which it was written. The narrative jumps from person to person, from event to event and from date to date with no real rhythm or connection. It often reads like the author simply published the notes she took during her research. For these reasons I was very disappointed with the book overall.

Released in conjunction with the 75th-anniversary DVD release of The Wizard of Oz, this book is the definitive story of how one of America's most beloved movies was made and a marvelous, unprecedented examination of how Hollywood used to make movies. This updated edition includes numerous photos and shares hundreds of interviews with cameramen, screenwriters, costume designers, directors, producers, light technicians, actors, and more to reveal how the factory-like Hollywood system of moviemaking miraculously produced one of the most enduring films ever made. From the scandalous headlines of Munchkin orgies at the Culver City Hotel and the Witches (accidental) burning to the building of the Emerald City and the sewing of nearly 1,000 costumes, *The Making of The Wizard of Oz* provides a richly detailed re-creation of MGM's production No. 1060 and a detail-by-detail, department-by-department look at the most powerful and flamboyant studio Hollywood has ever known. From the ten scriptwriters at work to the scandal headlines of Munchkin orgies at the Culver City Hotel to the Witch's (accidental) burning, here is the real story of the making of The Wizard of Oz. This richly detailed re-creation brings alive a major Hollywood studio and reveals, through hundreds of interviews (with cameramen, screenwriters, costume designers, directors, producers, light technicians, and actors), how the factory-like Hollywood system of moviemaking miraculously produced one of the most enduring and best-loved films ever made. We watch it happen--the bright, idiosyncratic, wildly devoted MGM-ers inventing the lines, the songs; flying hordes of monkeys through the sky; growing a poppy field; building the Emerald City (and 60 other sets); designing and sewing the nearly 1,000 costumes; enduring the pressures from the front office; choosing the actors. Here is Oz, a marvelous, unprecedented experience of studio life as it was lived day by day, detail by detail, department by department, at the most powerful and flamboyant studio Hollywood has ever known--at its moment of greatest power.

A complete joy...I'd definitely recommend *The Making of The Wizard of Oz* to both the casual fan and true Oz devotee. Thrilling Days of Yesteryear
About the Author Aljean Harmetz is the author of *The Making of Casablanca*, *On the Road to Tara: The Making of Gone with the Wind*, *Rolling Breaks and Other Movie Business*, and a novel, *Off the Face of the Earth*. She lives in Los Angeles. Margaret Hamilton was an actress best known for her portrayal of the malevolent Miss Almira Gulch and the Wicked Witch of the West in the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*.