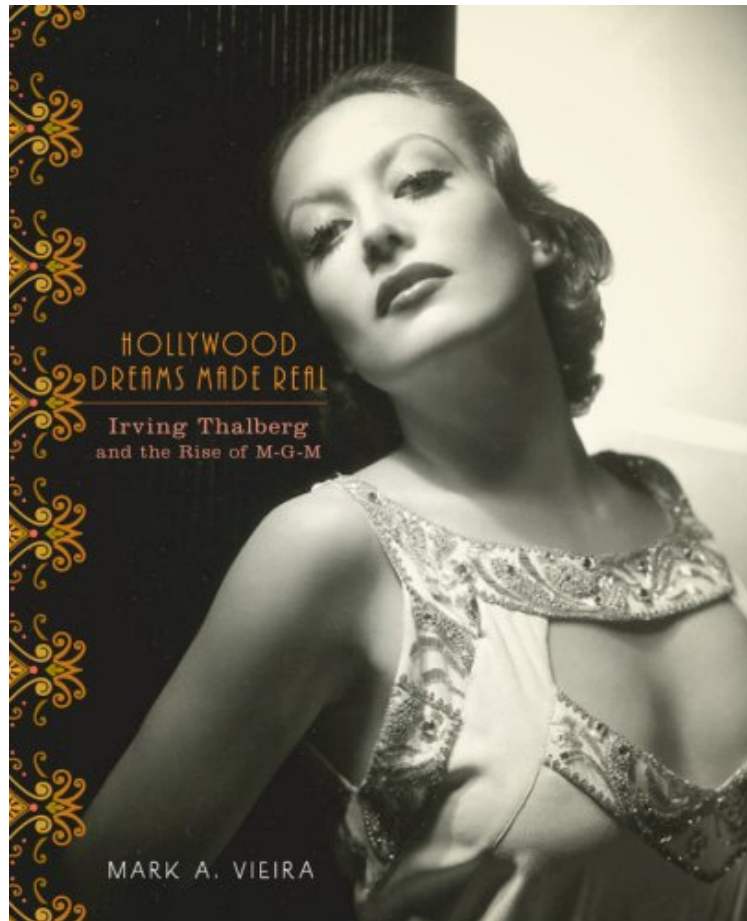


(Free read ebook) Hollywood Dreams Made Real: Irving Thalberg and the Rise of M-G-M

# Hollywood Dreams Made Real: Irving Thalberg and the Rise of M-G-M

Mark A. Vieira

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**Mark A. Vieira : Hollywood Dreams Made Real: Irving Thalberg and the Rise of M-G-M** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood Dreams Made Real: Irving Thalberg and the Rise of M-G-M:

25 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Hollywood Dream Factory: Irving Thalberg opened the door to the Hollywood world and made movie magic By C. M. Mills Irving Thalberg was born in Brooklyn to a prominent Jewish family. He was a weak boy suffering from heart disease and a series of other ailments. Doctors thought he would never make it to age 30. Being forced into bed for months at a time the lad read classics with a voracious appetite. He loved the flickers. When he was 20 he went to Hollywood to work for Carl Laemmle at Universal Studios. Thalberg served as the old man's assistant and produced several silent films. Throughout his career the precocious Thalberg was a workaholic who ate, slept and breathed making high quality films which would have wide appeal. He enjoyed seeing the classics of his childhood on the silver screen such as "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"

with Lon Chaney. He was a polite polished little man who could nevertheless be a tough. Thalberg was a perfectionist who demanded excellent and expertise from his staff, directors, writers and actors. Thalberg left Universal to team up with the cagy Louis B. Mayer. Together they built MGM into the greatest and richest of the Hollywood dream factories. Thalberg produced over 400 MGM films including such classics as "Grand Hotel"; "Mutiny on the Bounty"; "China Seas"; the Garbo-Gilbert films and horror pictures. He also guided the career of his wife Norma Shearer who was known as the Queen of the Lot. She won an Oscar for the "Divorcee". Other prominent players included Joan Crawford who was Norma's greatest rival; Wallace Beery; Garbo and Gilbert; Johnny Weismuller; Robert Montgomery; Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine; Mary Pickford and the famous Barrymore siblings. Thalberg molded the careers of sex goddess Jean Harlow and Clark Gable. Thalberg sired two children: Irving Jr. and Katherine with his beautiful wife Norma. The marriage was happy. MGM managed to make a profit in the Depression. Towards the end of his life Thalberg and Mayer had their differences but continued to work together. Thalberg died at 36 in 1936 but his films will live forever in the hearts of classic movie fans. Many of his films can be viewed on Turner Classic Movies. Mark Vieira has written several large sized picture books dealing with classic cinema. This book is beautifully illustrated with glamorous photos of the stars and a year by year account of Thalberg's tenure at MGM. This book will transport you to the magical and distant land of MGM in the golden age of film. Enjoy!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... am an old Hollywood buff and this is my favorite book on my favorite subject

By Customer I am an old Hollywood buff and this is my favorite book on my favorite subject! The pictures are fantastic!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hollywood long ago

By ex-librarian If you are a fan of Hollywood photography, this is sure to be a winner for you. Vieira has a great knack for picking out winners that we don't often see or haven't ever seen that gives you the view of the glamorous Hollywood of yesteryear.

Nicknamed the Boy Wonder, Irving G. Thalberg was running Universal Pictures at the age of twenty, and he cofounded Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at twenty-four. Between 1924 and 1936, he supervised 400 memorable movies, making stars of Lon Chaney, Jean Harlow, Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, John Gilbert, and Greta Garbo. By the time of his death at thirty-seven, Thalberg had lifted film to the level of fine art. In this groundbreaking book, Mark A. Vieira draws on newly discovered interviews and production records; the unpublished autobiography of Thalberg's wife, superstar Norma Shearer; and a treasure trove of unseen images to vividly recount the making of Ben-Hur, The Big Parade, Tarzan the Ape Man, Grand Hotel, Mutiny on the Bounty, A Night at the Opera, and scores of other classics. *Hollywood Dreams Made Real* is a fresh portrait of the prime architect of the studio system and an enchanting tour of the magical world he created.

From Booklist Photographer-historian Vieira is a particularly good example of the fan as writer. He is more literate (misusing only a handful of words herein), factually scrupulous (though, contra page 164, Faulkner's Turn About isn't a novel), careful (though The unexpected success of Stroheim's films is broached on page 12 sans explanation of who Stroheim was), and stylistically consistent than most other pictorial historians of Hollywood. Other than on matters photographic, however, he is no critic. In the visually ravishing Greta Garbo (2005), he asserted the artistic distinction of the actress' films but couldn't argue the matter, and here he makes similar claims for the 400 films overseen by producer Irving Thalberg (1899-1936) and again makes no case, except to stress his subjects' desire to marry the best of stage and cinematic aesthetics and his remarkable ability to read popular taste, which assured that M-G-M made money every one of his dozen years with it. All that aside, Vieira's account of Thalberg's career is authoritative, and his choice of photos to illustrate it gorgeous almost beyond words. --Ray Olson

About the Author Mark A. Vieira is a portrait photographer, a film historian, and the author of four other books published by Abrams: *Hurrell's Hollywood Portraits*, *Sin in Soft Focus: Pre-Code Hollywood*, *Hollywood Horror: From Gothic to Cosmic*, and *Greta Garbo: A Cinematic Legacy*. He maintains a studio in the historic Granada Buildings in Los Angeles.