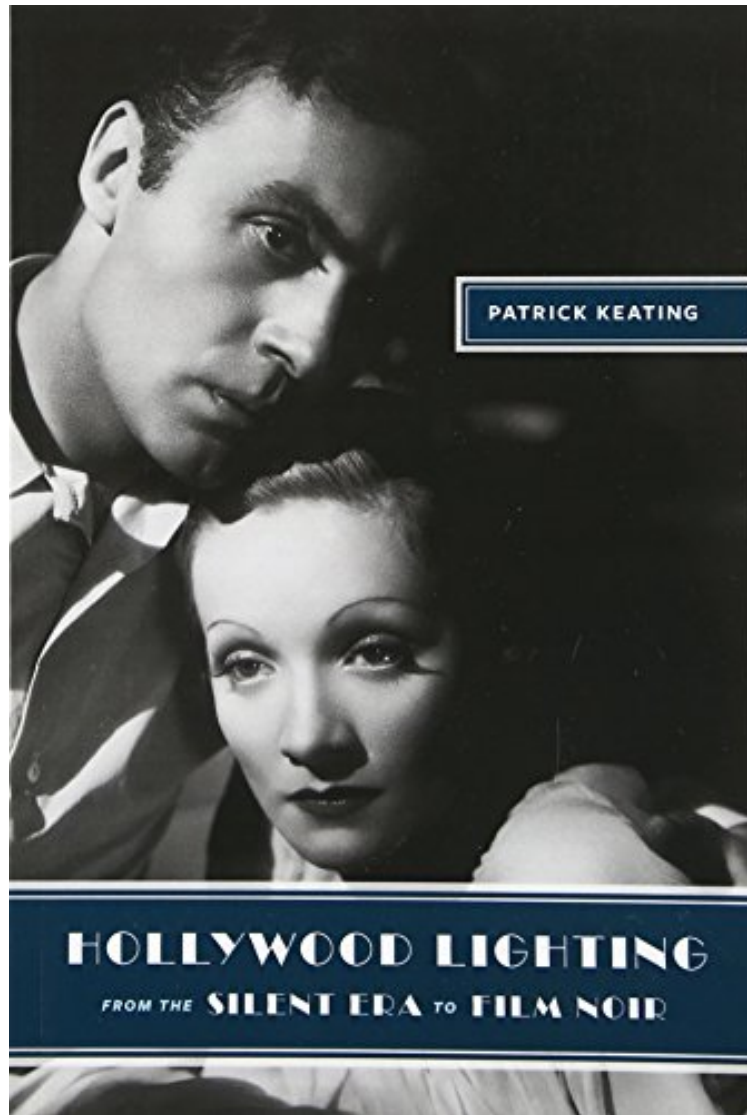


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Hollywood Lighting from the Silent Era to Film Noir (Film and Culture Series)

Patrick Keating

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Patrick Keating : Hollywood Lighting from the Silent Era to Film Noir (Film and Culture Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood Lighting from the Silent Era to Film Noir (Film and Culture Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Lot of gold in this, if your willing to emerge yourself
Customer There is a lot of "lighting" golden concepts here, but the book has a lot of ASC history information that is

mixed in that takes a bit of effort (like a lot of who is who in a historical ASC context). So it's a bit of a history book on personalities and a detailed book on lighting within that historical context, so you have to emerge yourself into that historical context to understand the lighting approaches. So it's for sure not a simple "this is how you light a movie if your trying to do a 1920 piece", it gives a full thematic development of the lighting approach, with examples mixed in. As the stories develop the lighting concepts merge the motivations of the personalities with their lighting techniques. This book is a mandatory read for anyone doing black and white cinematography, but I would say it would also help "color" based lighting too, since both are based on contrast. It's also just a great historical read for people that aren't cinematographers, but more fan's of this period.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fluent book on Hollywood lighting

By A Reader Not only can scholars and amateur film buffs learn from this book, but Keating's work is a virtual manual on how to shoot films, and any d.p. would be wise to purchase it for that alone. (In this respect, one wishes Keating had provided a glossary for his useful terms that describes the variety of lighting strategies employed by Hollywood cinematographers.) Keating's research is impressive, and he provides ample background to clarify the debates and tensions at issue for these cinematographers. Keating also makes respectful emendations to ideas offered by previous scholars on the subject, showing us that he is every bit as moderate in his analysis as many of the great cinematographers of the era he describes were in their balancing of the variety of expectations placed on their work. Over the course of the book, he shows us how these men did indeed overturn the conception that they were mere "crank-turners" and were, in fact, genuine artists, every bit as worthy the name as a Rembrandt or Bronzino. This is a must read.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A part of all academic library cinematic studies and film history reference collections

By Midwest Book Review "Hollywood Lighting From The Silent Era To Film Noir" by Patrick Keating (Assistant Professor, Department of Communications, Trinity University) is a 296-page history of how directors used stage lighting in movies to perform a variety of functions ranging from enhancing the mood of a scene, to emphasizing action sequences, to framing actor personas, and so much more. "Hollywood Lighting From The Silent Era To Film Noir" is a seminal study drawing upon original research and utilizing specific films to illustrate how lighting play a pivotal role in the image-drawn storytelling that was the hallmark of Hollywood theatrical productions and the art of cinematography. Simply stated, "Hollywood Lighting From The Silent Era To Film Noir" should be considered essential reading by all film students and aspiring directors, and a part of all academic library cinematic studies and film history reference collections.

Lighting performs essential functions in Hollywood films, enhancing the glamour, clarifying the action, and intensifying the mood. Examining every facet of this understated art form, from the glowing backlights of the silent period to the shaded alleys of film noir, Patrick Keating affirms the role of Hollywood lighting as a distinct, compositional force. Closely analyzing *Girl Shy* (1924), *Anna Karenina* (1935), *Only Angels Have Wings* (1939), and *T-Men* (1947), along with other brilliant classics, Keating describes the unique problems posed by these films and the innovative ways cinematographers handled the challenge. Once dismissed as crank-turning laborers, these early cinematographers became skillful professional artists by carefully balancing the competing demands of story, studio, and star. Enhanced by more than one hundred illustrations, this volume counters the notion that style took a backseat to storytelling in Hollywood film, proving that the lighting practices of the studio era were anything but neutral, uniform, and invisible. Cinematographers were masters of multifunctionality and negotiation, honing their craft to achieve not only realistic fantasy but also pictorial artistry.

Hollywood Lighting from the Silent Era to Film Noir should be considered essential reading by all film students and aspiring directors. (Midwest Book) This readable book provides welcome profiles of eminent cinematographers... and valuable research on the American Society of Cinematographers... Highly recommended. (Choice) This book taught my students and me to watch films in a new way. (Karla Oeler Film Quarterly) About the Author Patrick Keating is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at Trinity University, where he teaches courses in film and media studies.