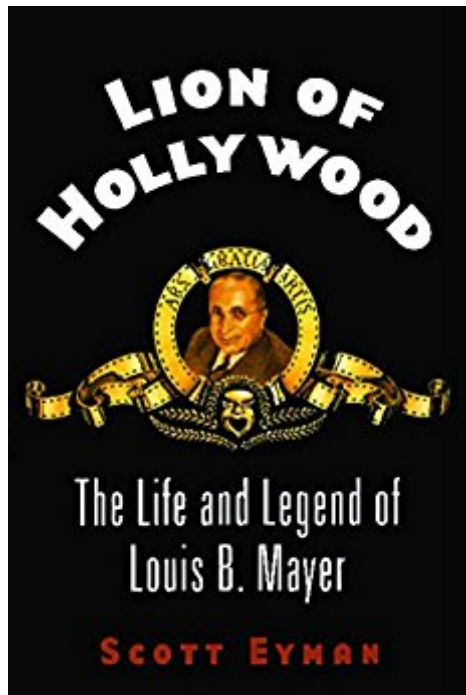




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Lion Of Hollywood: The Life And Legend Of Louis B. Mayer



Synopsis

Lion of Hollywood is the definitive biography of Louis B. Mayer, the chief of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayerâ€™s MGMâ€™ the biggest and most successful film studio of Hollywoodâ€™s Golden Age. An immigrant from tsarist Russia, Mayer began in the film business as an exhibitor but soon migrated to where the action and the power wereâ€™ Hollywood. Through sheer force of energy and foresight, he turned his own modest studio into MGM, where he became the most powerful man in Hollywood, bending the film business to his will. He made great films, including the fabulous MGM musicals, and he made great stars: Garbo, Gable, Garland, and dozens of others. Through the enormously successful Andy Hardy series, Mayer purveyed family values to America. At the same time, he used his influence to place a federal judge on the bench, pay off local officials, cover up his starsâ€™ indiscretions and, on occasion, arrange marriages for gay stars. Mayer rose from his impoverished childhood to become at one time the highest-paid executive in America. Despite his power and money, Mayer suffered some significant losses. He had two daughters: Irene, who married David O. Selznick, and Edie, who married producer William Goetz. He would eventually fall out with Edie and divorce his wife, Margaret, ending his life alienated from most of his family. His chief assistant, Irving Thalberg, was his closest business partner, but they quarreled frequently, and Thalbergâ€™s early death left Mayer without his most trusted associate. As Mayer grew older, his politics became increasingly reactionary, and he found himself politically isolated within Hollywoodâ€™s small conservative community. Lion of Hollywood is a three-dimensional biography of a figure often caricatured and vilified as the paragon of the studio system. Mayer could be arrogant and tyrannical, but under his leadership MGM made such unforgettable films as The Big Parade, Ninotchka, The Wizard of Oz, Meet Me in St. Louis, and An American in Paris. Film historian Scott Eyman interviewed more than 150 people and researched some previously unavailable archives to write this major new biography of a man who defined an industry and an era.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A thorough trip into the Why, and the How of the movie industry in Hollywood. After you get past L.B.Mayer's very early years (and it is interesting in it's own and contributing way) one enjoyably and vicariously a party to inside Hollywood/MGM style politics, social life, the studio's world of activities, actors/actresses, decisions both good/bad, executives, producers casting couch proclivities (without being raw). I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

This was awesome read. Took me a while to get through due to the size of the book. I had read this after reading King Cohn, and I was glad I did. How Hollywood started is fascinating and this is a good book to start with if you are interested in anything having to do with it.

Son of a bitch, I cried when I finished this magnificent book! Scott Eyman, thank you for this best of all possible books! I lived every word at a time. I seriously couldn't read anything for week or so after immersed in this bigger than life story. Honestly, I was physically and mentally exhausted as I closed the back cover. AUTHOR AUTHOR!

Another great book that reveals the golden age of Hollywood and how it all began for the entertainment of moviegoers everywhere. I have long enjoyed the tales of Hollywood in the early days and all the stars I barely remember, but this one added facts and stories I hadn't read before. Once again I was satisfied with details of the early days and how everyone operated to get the job done, the behind the scenes vignettes we couldn't know at the time.

Excellent biography of a complicated, fascinating man. Scott Eyman does get bogged down with details, pages of the costs of a production, for instance; but don't let that deter you from reading a most interesting story of the glamorous heyday of the American film icon, Louis B. Mayer.

Magnificent!

Scott Eyman has penned an excellent even-handed Biography of Louis B Mayer. Rich in Hollywood history and chock full of personal anecdotes by executives and stars, the book reads like a novel. I enthusiastically recommend to all who have interest in a historical figure of the golden age of Hollywood.

A definitive biography! Quite engrossing. I read it from beginning to end. I would recommend it for anyone interested in historical Hollywood and classic movies.

The best bio on Louis b. Mayer, the most important figure in Hollywood at the time !

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