



An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood

By Neal Gabler

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A provocative, original, and richly entertaining group biography of the Jewish immigrants who were the moving forces behind the creation of America's motion picture industry.

The names Harry Cohn, William Fox, Carl Laemmle, Louis B. Mayer, Jack and Harry Warner, and Adolph Zucker are giants in the history of contemporary Hollywood, outsiders who dared to invent their own vision of the American Dream. Even to this day, the American values defined largely by the movies of these émigrés endure in American cinema and culture. Who these men were, how they came to dominate Hollywood, and what they gained and lost in the process is the exhilarating story of *An Empire of Their Own*.

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Editorial Review

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That subtitle may inspire in some readers waves of ethnic pride, and in others waves of ethnic revulsion, but the point of this book is that its claim of origin is quite literally true. And what makes it an interesting read for political types is the way it demonstrates that no matter how much the founding Hollywood moguls and their successors tried to peddle an idealized, escapist form of entertainment, bubbling up under and around their every project was ideology, racism, ethnic prejudice, class friction, domestic and international politics and all the other raw, seething stuff that distinguishes this country from all others. In Gabler's hands, the Industry draws a picture of American political history in spite of itself.

From Publishers Weekly

Best known as a former co-host of PBS's Sneak Previews, Gabler presents an entertaining, wide-ranging, in-depth account of the Jewish studio executives, theater owners, producers, writers, lawyers and talent agents who dominated the American film industry until shortly after WW II. Many of the founding fathers came from impoverished East European families, and in their early struggles and later achievements they ferociously embraced their new country and rejected their Jewish past. In the process, they invented an America in the image of their own fiction one that has come to be accepted throughout the world as the true image of the United States and created "an empire of their own." Recounting their efforts as film emperors, Gabler also describes their personal lives as husbands, fathers, womanizers, party-givers, gamblers and racehorse owners. A particularly stimulating chapter focuses on the conflict between politics and esthetics, between left-wing writers and conservative magnates; it also covers the effects of WW II and the encroachments of un-American activities committees and blacklists. Gabler vividly recreates a way of life now gone forever. Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Gabler has written a thoroughly researched history of the early Hollywood film industry and the men who ran it. Coming from similar humble Eastern European and Jewish backgrounds, Fox, Laemmle, Meyer, Zukor, and the Warner brothers shared an overwhelming desire to achieve wealth and status in their new country. Finding barriers to success through traditional means, they gravitated to the fledgling film industry where they "could simply create a new country an empire of their own, so to speak one where they would not only be admitted, but would govern as well." Gabler documents the consequences of their quest and the tragic results that followed. Recommended for large film collections. Robert Logsdon, Indiana State Lib., Indianapolis

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Users Review

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Joseph McNeal:

This book untitled An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retailer or you can order it by means of online. The publisher

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James Lindberg:

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Julie Tice:

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