

Title Information

1939

The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year

by Charles F. Adams

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\$16.95 (\$18.95 Canada) • Trade Paperback • 6" x 9" • 260 pages
ISBN 978-1-61035-197-3 • Film History • BISAC PER004030
150 Historical Photographs • Bibliography • Index

“For film buffs, consider this one essential.” —*Booklist*

It was the greatest year in American movie history. In 1939, Hollywood produced the most brilliant, most loved, and most influential films of all time and marked the summit of the careers of such legendary stars as Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, and John Wayne.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of this amazing year in Hollywood history, *1939: The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year* profiles six of the most significant films of the year: *Gone with the Wind*, *Stagecoach*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *The Wizard of Oz*.

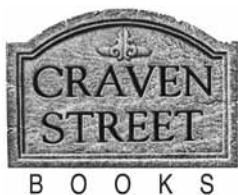
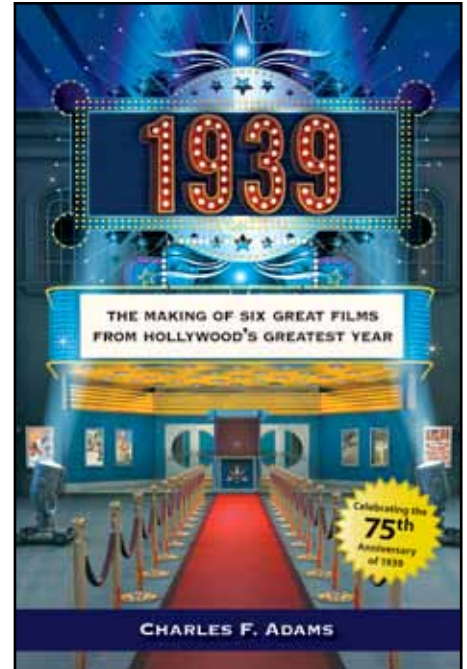
Each of these films was based on a great story, and *1939* reveals in detail how those stories came into being, how long they waited to find fame in film, and how the movies inspired by them eventually made motion picture history. *1939* also describes the behind-the-scenes story of how each film was made: how the story was adapted to a film script; the writers, producers, directors, actors, and technicians who made the film; how the film was received by critics and the public; and the later careers of the people who made the film. Authentic period photos of each production give amazing behind-the-scenes glimpses of old Hollywood at work.

1939 exposes the blunt social and business realities that built the Hollywood dream factory. Besides giving a full account of the artistic creation of each film, *1939* also describes the business deals that made each film possible and the Hays Office censorship that mandated careful handling of social and sexual themes — plus the colorful personalities in front of and behind the camera and their sometimes disordered personal lives. Hollywood in the 1930s was crass, commercial, restrictive, low-brow, and frequently dysfunctional, but it produced immensely enjoyable films that are still watched with pleasure today.

The perfect combination of film history, artistic appreciation, historical insight, and gossip, *1939: The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year* is a book that no movie fan should miss.

Audience: Movie fans, film history readers, celebrity gossip readers, American culture readers.

About the Author: Charles F. Adams is a retired marketing executive and the author of several books, including *Murder by the Bay* and *The Complete Geezer Guidebook*, both available from Craven Street Books.



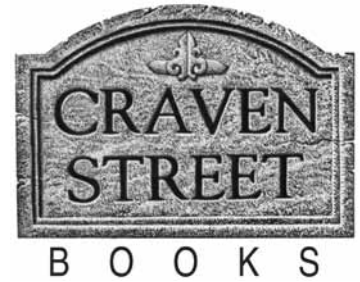
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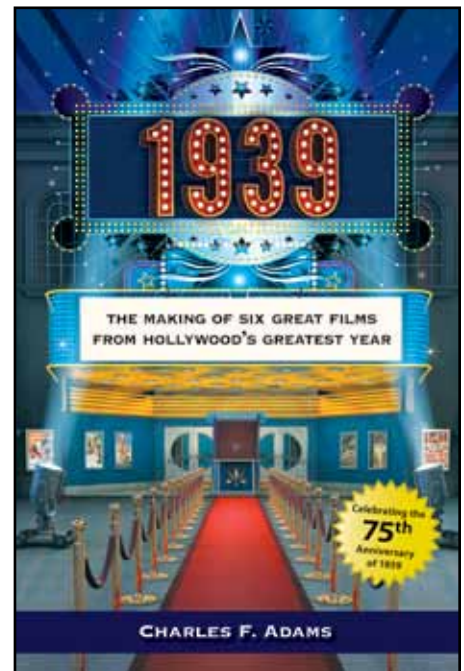


New film history *1939* is a stunning tribute to the great movies of Hollywood's greatest year

"For film buffs, consider this one essential" —*Booklist*

1939 was the greatest year in American motion picture history. In this single year, Hollywood produced some of the most brilliant, beloved and influential films of all time, including *Gone with the Wind*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and *The Wizard of Oz*. 1939 was the heyday of the classic studio system, the height of Hollywood's global cultural influence, and the summit of the careers of such legendary stars as Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart and John Wayne.

The films, the culture and the politics of Hollywood's Golden Age are brilliantly explored in the new film history *1939: The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year* (Craven Street Books, March 2014) by Charles F. Adams.



1939 profiles the making of six of the most significant films of 1939: *Gone with the Wind*, *Stagecoach*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *The Wizard of Oz*, covering each film from the origins of the script to the finished film's debut and critical receptions. The story of each film is thoroughly illustrated with authentic production photos that give amazing behind-the-scenes glimpses of old Hollywood at work.

The story behind these films begins not with the movie production, but the origins of the script. All these magnificent films were based on great works of fiction, and *1939* explores how these works of fiction came into being, with fascinating details about the lives and work of authors like Margaret Mitchell, Mark Twain, Arthur Conan Doyle and L. Frank Baum.

1939 then goes deep into the surprising true stories of how these great works of literature became legendary

motion pictures, revealing behind-the-scenes information about script development, casting decisions, production design, obstacles and conflict on the set, and more.

Readers will get an exciting glimpse into how some of Hollywood's most renowned talents thought and worked, with vivid portrayals of giants like John Ford and Frank Capra in action on the set. Covering the foibles, passions, inspirations and sometimes disordered personal lives of writers, producers, directors, actors and technicians, *1939* is a masterful portrait of Hollywood at work and play — plus a scandalously delightful sourcebook of movieland gossip that's shocking even today.

1939 also exposes the blunt social and business realities that built the Hollywood dream factory. Besides giving a full account of the artistic creation of each film, *1939* describes the business deals that made each film possible, the Hays Office censorship that mandated careful handling of social and sexual themes, the marketing and political pressures that shaped films, and the titanic egos and career ambitions that drove the men and women who made the movies. Hollywood in the 1930s was crass, commercial, restrictive, low-brow and frequently dysfunctional, but it produced immensely enjoyable films that are still watched with pleasure today.

1939 tells such amazing behind-the-scenes stories as:

—Which set in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was so large and complex that the actors actually got lost inside it.

—Why the best line in Twain's novel does not appear in the film of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

—Why Shirley Temple was not cast as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*.

—Why it was nearly impossible to film in the perfect replica of the U.S. Senate chamber that Frank Capra built for *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*.

—Plus many more inside stories, production details, and personal revelations about the greatest movie stars of all time.

The perfect combination of film history, artistic appreciation, historical insight, and gossip, *1939: The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year* is a book that no movie fan should miss.

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About Charles F. Adams

Author of *1939: The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year*



Charles F. Adams spent his career in international marketing and was President and Chief Operating Officer of D'Arcy, MacManus and Masius, Inc., one of the world's largest advertising agencies. Now retired, he continues to serve as Chairman of the Wajim Corporation and President of Adams Enterprises. He is also a former owner and General Partner of the Pittsburgh Penguins of the National Hockey League. He has chaired a number of charitable and civic organizations.

Adams' previous books include *Common Sense in Advertising* (McGraw-Hill, 1968), *Heroes of the Golden Gate* (Pacific Books, 1987), *California in the Year 2000* (Pacific Books, 1991), *The Magnificent Rogues* (Pacific Books, 1998), *Murder by the Bay* (Craven Street Books, 2005), and *The Complete Geezer Guidebook* (Quill Driver Books, 2009).

Adams has also written seven plays, all of which have been produced and performed in San Francisco, where Adams lives.



For more information on *1939: The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year* (Craven Street Books, March 2014) or to arrange an interview with author **Charles F. Adams**, please contact Jaguar Bennett at Craven Street Books, (800) 345-4447, Publicity@QuillDriverBooks.com.

Praise for *1939: The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year*

"1939 is a book worthy of the year."

—Mick LaSalle, film critic, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Drawing on an extensive variety of sources ... Adams takes us through the conception, production, and release of each of the six films. The book is full of facts readers should probably already know but possibly don't—Margaret Mitchell, author of the novel *Gone with the Wind*, was run down by a drunk driver in 1949; "Last Stage to Lordsburg," the short story that became *Stagecoach*, was inspired by a story by Guy de Maupassant—and the author has a nice, straightforward, reportorial writing style. For film buffs, consider this one essential.

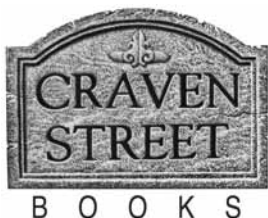
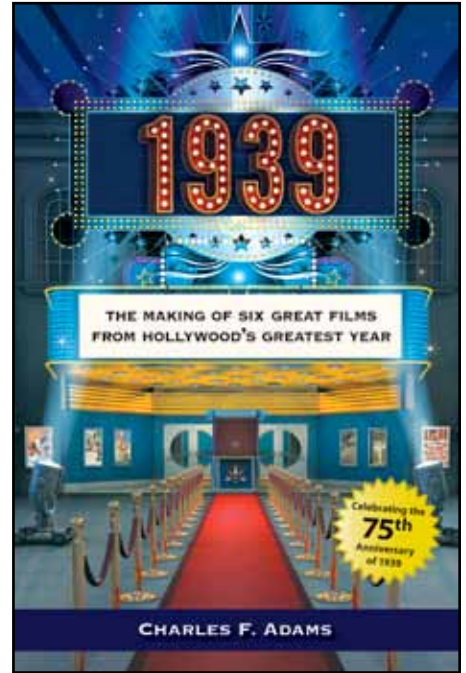
—David Pitt, *Booklist*

Most interesting when describing the steps that were necessary to conceive and execute the film, for instance, the casting of Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes or the adaptation of a short story from Collier's for *Stagecoach* ... for die-hard fans looking for info on these films compiled in a single volume.

—Barbara Kundanis, *Library Journal*

Adams's thoroughness and energy make this book appealing to both movie lovers and those fascinated by the inner workings of film-making. The book's six-fold focus allows each movie to be explored with appropriate depth—none likely warrants a whole book of their own, but each is rich enough for more than an article or brief chapter. Readers familiar with the films will find new insights and connections, and readers less familiar will find a world of awe opened before them. Adams has been a movie lover since childhood, and the book fuels this childlike passion, backed by insight and research. It has sensational little-known stories, almost like a Hollywood gossip magazine—from spats between Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable to the catastrophic opening night of *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* to how a last-minute switch made Ray Bolger a star and landed Buddy Ebsen in the hospital—but the book has the tone and integrity of an engaging, well-researched book, including careful attention to factual accuracy and impartial narration. Adams is both historian and fanatic, giving the book both thoroughness and energy. This book will whet the appetite of movie connoisseurs.

—Melissa Wuske, *ForeWord Reviews*



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