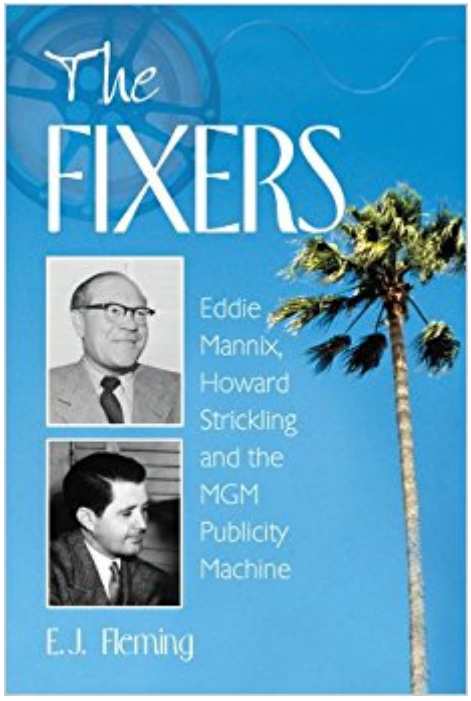
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# The Fixers: Eddie Mannix, Howard Strickling And The MGM Publicity Machine




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## Synopsis

Eddie Mannix and Howard Strickling are virtually unknown outside of Hollywood and little-remembered even there, but as General Manager and Head of Publicity for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, they lorded over all the stars in HollywoodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s golden age from the 1920s through the 1940sÃ¢â ¬â •including legends like Garbo, Dietrich, Gable and Garland. When MGM stars found themselves in trouble, it was Eddie and Howard who took care of themÃ¢â ¬â •solved their problems, hid their crimes, and kept their secrets. They were Ã¢â ¬Å“the Fixers.Ã¢â ¬Â• At a time when image meant everything and the stars were worth millions to the studios that owned them, Mannix and Strickling were the most important men at MGM. Through a complex web of contacts in every arena, from reporters and doctors to corrupt police and district attorneys, they covered up some of the most notorious crimes and scandals in Hollywood history, keeping stars out of jail and, more importantly, their names out of the papers. They handled problems as diverse as the murder of Paul Bern (husband of MGMÃ¢â ¬â„¢s biggest star, Jean Harlow), the studio-directed drug addictions of Judy Garland, the murder of Ted Healy (creator of The Three Stooges) at the hands of Wallace Beery, and arranging for an unmarried Loretta Young to adopt her own childÃ¢â ¬â •a child fathered by a married Clark Gable. Through exhaustive research and interviews with contemporaries, this is the never-before-told story of Eddie Mannix and Howard Strickling. The dual biography describes how a mob-related New Jersey laborer and the quiet son of a grocer became the most powerful men at the biggest studio in the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have read so many books about Hollywood I feel I’m beginning to become a bit of an expert myself. This book came out in 2004. I don’t know how I missed it!Although I knew of many of the stories told here, there is a wealth of new facts in "The Fixers’ where the complete story is investigated and, in many cases, finally solved. Although I thought it started out a bit slow as Mr. Fleming laid the foundation of the Fixers, it almost immediately perked up and grabbed my attention once we got into the types of things Mannix and Strickland had to deal with during their long careers at MGM Studios. At this point I couldn’t put it down. What has been passed off in other books as mere gossip, in this book they are turned into fully-realized morality tales and a testament to the enormous pressures studios were under to keep their stars’ reputation pristine.Mannix was recently immortalized in the film "Hail Caesar," played by Josh Brolin, a humorous attempt to show the things he was called upon to clean up. The characters are all familiar from other books, but not in the way they are written here. You really feel you get the whole story in "The Fixers."Some reviewers have faulted it for what they see as focusing too much on the "closeted" actors, but there were stories from both sides of the fence, one more deliciously tawdry than the next. The story of Nelson Eddie and Jeanette MacDonald was hysterical. I didn’t know much about them but the whole thing reads like a Greek Tragedy in Beverly Hills.Great read. Five Stars!

I have always enjoyed reading about the antics of the people who were part of the golden era of motion pictures. You have to take the stories with a grain of salt as few, if any, of the subjects of the book are around to defend themselves. However, I believe the author did an excellent job in his research and that most of these tales are true; show business people are, indeed, different from most of us. I very much enjoyed the first portion of the book as it gave a completely new (to me) perspective on the history of motion pictures. It was insightful, very well written, and made me aware of what a spectacular innovation movies were when the public was first exposed to them.

Well documented collection of behind the manufactured studio press release stories that will delight any fan of Classic Hollywood.I'd suggest reading this along with the Garden of Allah books! It's truly fascinating to read the dirt behind the glitz.My only real complaint/critique is that the book is one long text... No chapters, no section headings. It's like one long textual stream of consciousness with no indication that a new era of even story is about to begin.

Too many false statements in this book. John Gilbert DID costar with Greta Garbo in Queen Christina and Lupe Velez died from a suicidal overdose of pills; yes she was pregnant but did NOT break her neck on the toilet. Fleming should had advised this book is mostly fiction.

If a part of you has often wondered what it would be been like to be around to witness all the glamour of Hollywood's "Golden Days" from the early `30s to the mid 50's, when the big studios like MGM took care of their stars, as Louis B.Mayer always said, like `family` and they lived in fabulous homes, drove the most expensive cars, seemingly carefree...Right? This book takes you inside the Family where you learned of the high price some paid for their place in the Family and the Glamour and Glitz. You'll learn more than you ever knew before about the professional and private lives of Clark Gable, Greta Garbo, Jean Harlow, Joan Crawford, Judy Garland, Cary Grant, Spencer Tracy, Charlie Chaplin and many others. It's an amazing story and a page-turner that you're never quite certain of the ending.Many paid a high price for their place in "the family" though. This book

There is a lot of information in the book, but there is also a lot of speculation on the part of the author. At times, the book comes across quite chatty and gossipy, and maybe rightfully so, but the author has no qualms about including his opinion of events and their interpretations. I also noticed him repeating himself a few times. The material was interesting enough to keep me reading, but I probably wouldn't read it again. I think it could stand a good editing.

If you have ever wondered about the Golden Age of Hollywood, and MGM studios, this is going to be a great read. Some very shocking tidbits all through the chapters. The lives of some of the biggest stars in movies uncovered in all their sordid glory. A very good example of the power wielded by the studios and how they controlled every aspect of a stars life. Excellent book.

I had high hopes for this book but found it disappointing for the amount of questionable and unsourced allegations. Just because a story has told before in print doesn't make it true. I was

looking for a source to support my own research and so I already knew some history around MGM in general and Mannix and Strickling in particular, so I spotted errors in The Fixers right away. As a result I have shied away from using this as a source. For an overview of MGM and its way of doing business, this is fine. Just don't expect every word inside the covers to be true.

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