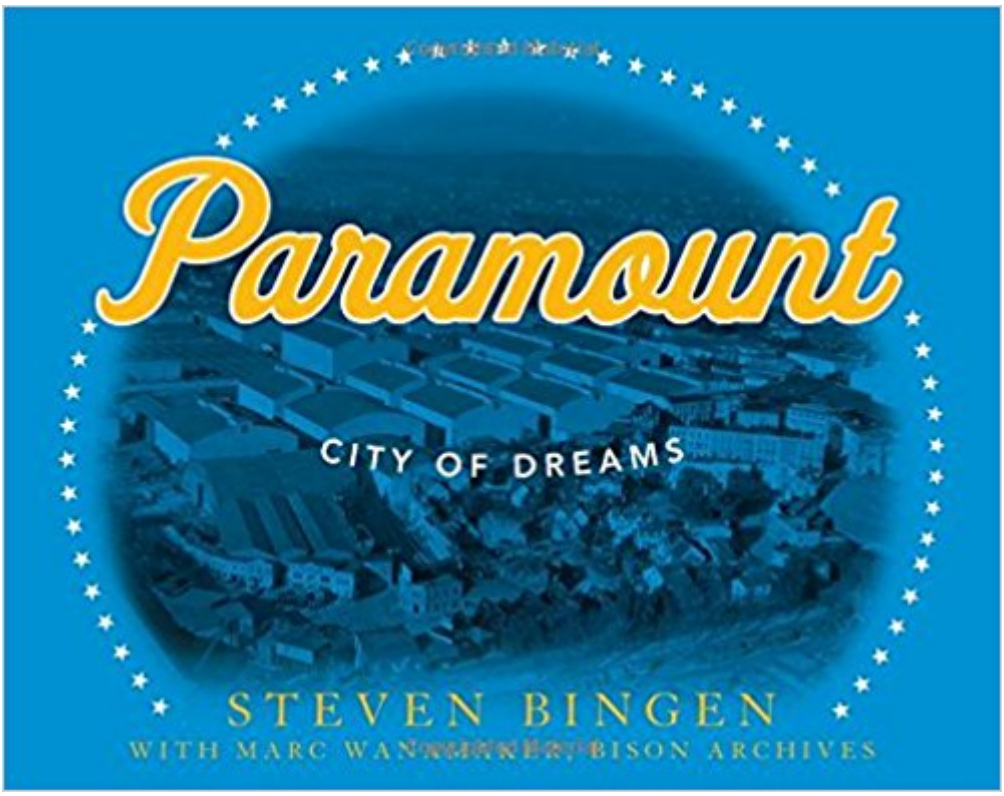
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Paramount: City Of Dreams



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Synopsis

Paramount: City of Dreams brings to life the operations of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grandest movie lot as never before by opening its famous gates and revealing Ã¢â ¬â œ for the first time Ã¢â ¬â œ the wonderful myriad of soundstages and outdoor sets where, for one hundred years, Paramount has produced the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most famous films. With hundreds and hundreds of rare and unpublished photographs in color and black & white, readers are launched aboard a fun and entertaining Ã¢â ¬Å“virtual tourÃ¢â ¬Â• of HollywoodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s first, most famous and most mysterious motion picture studio. Paramount is a self-contained city. But unlike any community in the real world, this cityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s streets and lawns, its bungalows and backlots, will be familiar even to those who have never been there. Now, for the first time, these much-filmed, much-haunted acres will be explored and the mysteries and myths peeled away Ã¢â ¬â œ bringing into focus the greatest of all of HollywoodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s legendary dream factories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Author of PARAMOUNT: HOLLYWOODÃ¢â ¬â„¢S GREATEST STUDIO is Steven Bingen, an author, archivist, lecturer, and Hollywood insider who has contributed to dozens of books, articles and documentaries regarding film history, and in particular, HollywoodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s physical past, including the recent successes MGM: HOLLYWOODÃ¢â ¬â„¢S GREATEST BACKLOT and WARNER BROS: HOLLYWOODÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ULTIMATE BACKLOT.

Very interesting learning about the history of the buildings on the lot. I would have liked more

information bout the actors. The photos were great.

Another great Studio Tour from Steven Bingen...As someone who has been both a studio historian and spent 40 years in HOLLYWOOD myself, I can truly say that the research and detail of the book, are just incredible. When you couple all that with those great Bison Archive photos, many of which I have not seen before, then you really have a great souvenir of a great studio.It's ironic, that Bison archives is the main source for just about every HOLLYWOOD related book you can name, and even the studios themselves have to pay for the very same photos that they originally photographed.With this book you get two studio lots to explore -Paramount and it's next-door neighbor RKO. They were finally joined together in 1967. Having worked on location at the studio over the years, I can surely testify to the accuracy of Mr. Bingen's words, and the great behind-the-scenes stills. Paramount itself has it's own studio tour on a much more smaller, and a greatly more personal scale than Universal. So, if you want to put this book to good use as a reference guide... Be sure to take it with you.My copy of the book had a number of pages joined together in the printing, but again, this is a book that movie fans will really enjoy, specially when they see some of those illustrated movies and TV shows that showed the Paramount lot playing itself.

Having had generations of family who worked at Paramount Studios and spent many years on the lot myself this is a disappointing book. The photo on the cover is not Paramount it's Warner Brothers. When an author can't identify the Studio he is writing the history on that sends up a red flag to me. There are so many inaccuracies in this book that it's impossible to mention them all here. It's a shame that something like this gets published because once it's printed it becomes fact and that incorrect information gets constantly repeated. The early history is particularly sloppy and has been covered much better in other books on Paramount. The fantastic photos were provided by Marc Wanamaker's Bison Archives but were all published before in Wanamaker's two books on Paramount which include better detailed and more accurate accounts of Paramount's history. I was excited when I heard this book was coming out but after carefully reviewing it I think that Paramount and the readers deserved much better.

In the eye of the beholder and all that. Sorry but it was advertised as full of photos kinda as a coffee table book. And I was looking forward to this author because he has so much Hollyweird material but sorry all small black and white pic's that show nothing new or differant. 50 pages are nothing but a score card on where every film was made - sorry I don't care if Wayne's World was filmed in

building 13 ? Even the side margins are 1/3rd of each page - which leaves 1/3rd of each page blank ? I should have bought it used but I like giving the author credit so I buy new stuff - but unless something happens - no more Steve stuff - hay you might be different

Let’s call this a 5-star review, with reservations. Like some others here, I hungrily read Bingen’s magnum opus about MGM. Paramount was never (physically) the studio that MGM was, with its acres upon acres of sound stages and backlot. Nestled in Hollywood proper, Paramount has an entirely different feel than MGM--plus, it still exists. So, I bought this book sight unseen. I did not even bother with ’s Look Inside feature, because I saw "Bingen" and "Wanamaker" and "Paramount" and I was sold.I do love this book, but be prepared for an entirely different experience. It is more text than images. MGM has the lavish and large images you can feast on for a long Saturday morning with a cup of coffee. Paramount’s images tend to be far smaller and more contemporary. When I first opened the book and ran through the pages, my heart sank as I saw the size of the photos. But Bingen’s incisive commentary makes up for this.Again, like the MGM book, there are a few head-scratching typos and factual errors (Neil Hamilton played Alfred the Butler in Batman? Uh, no.). But given that this is a first edition, these bumps will get ironed out in later editions.

Bingen has done it again as he continues to explore the physical lay-out and history of the hollywood studios. His MGM Backlot book was outstanding and gave a real look behind the gates look, as does the Paramount City of Dreams, into the history and physical lay-out of one of the storied Hollywood studios. Most people haven’t had the opportunity to walk the lots and see the physical character of the famous studios in the greater Hollywood area, but I have. I’ve spent a number of days on Paramount’s Lot in the course of participating in several of the ’trade fairs’ and film screenings held there. For someone outside of the industry, but a movie buff like me, the Paramount book gives the reader not only a run-down on the history of the studio, but a vicarious exploration, building by building, of what can be found on the studio lot if one were to walk it. The book is more in-depth and informative than any studio tour would be. I especially found interesting the many details about the relationship between the Paramount Lot and that of the old RKO, its immediate neighbor. Also, the book details the story of what happened to the many props used in Paramount films, and TV shows over the years, and how many were carelessly discarded to occasionally be found in dumpsters by the likes of Leonard Maltin. Fascinating stuff. The size and organization of the Paramount book is very nearly the same as Bingen’s MGM book. I bought them

both and they are great. My only criticism is the lack of color photographs, which can be attributed to the fact that many of the black & white ones were the only available historical images. Any serious movie buff would be delighted with this publication, and perhaps, some of the companion ones to follow.

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