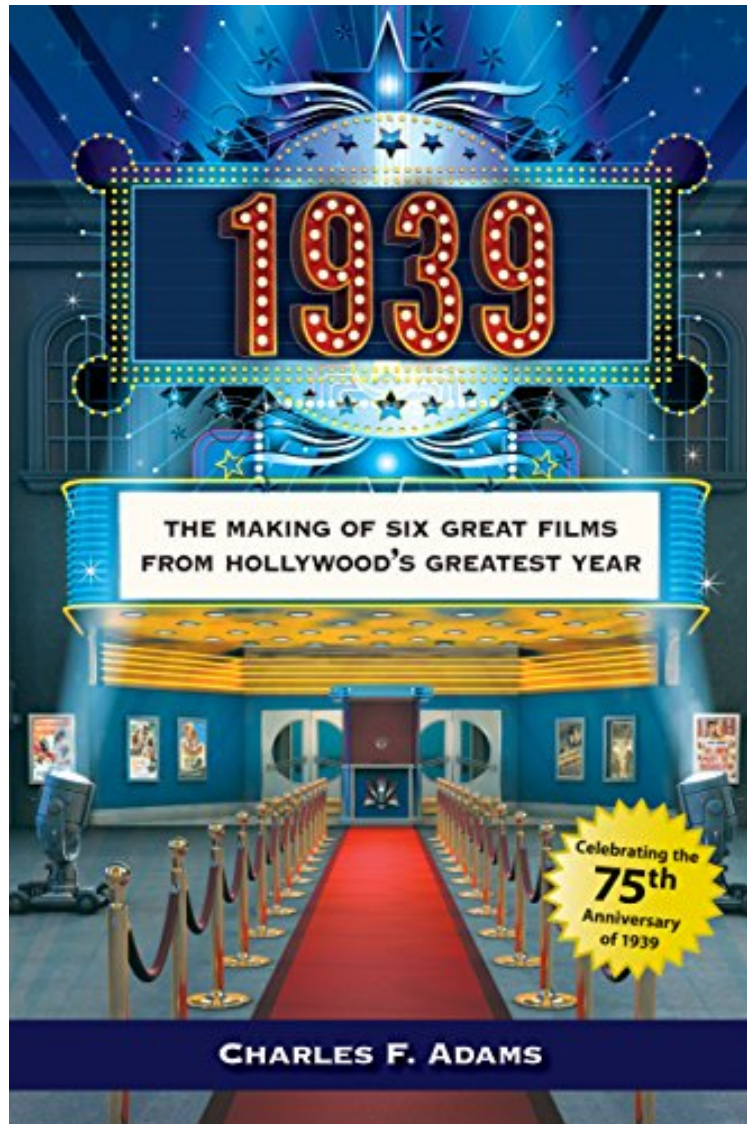


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1939: The Making of Six Great Films from Hollywood's Greatest Year

Charles F. Adams

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illustrations and photographs look like third generation Xerox copies. This book was advertised on TCM as something special. It isn't special. It's as if the author cut and pasted information from various and sundry sources, changed the wording so he wouldn't be charged with plagiarism, and suckered someone into publishing it. It's almost like a Cliff's Notes on six films. The author devotes entirely too much space on biographies of authors of the books that were turned into films. A totally valueless book. If you are a serious student or aficionado of film, this is NOT the book for you. A big thumbs down on this one. I wish I knew how to put the sound of a Bronx Cheer in writing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Don't buy this book. By Glenn A. Matlock Not a lot of information, if you have read other books like this one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. funny stories. Easy to read By Csar Velasco Very entertaining book, simple, funny stories. Easy to read, without technical words.

Film critics and historians are virtually unanimous in considering 1939 the greatest year in the history of motion pictures. This one year produced many of the greatest films of all time, including *Gone with the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, and marketed the height of the careers of such legendary stars as Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, John Wayne, and Judy Garland.

From Booklist *Starred* Nineteen thirty-nine was a banner year for Hollywood. Some say it was the greatest year in movie history, and it's hard to argue with that when you look at the classic movies released that year: *Gone with the Wind*, *Stagecoach*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Dark Victory*, *Destry Rides Again*, *Gunga Din*, *Intermezzo*, *Ninotchka*, *The Roaring Twenties*, and on the list goes. Picking the six greatest movies from the lengthy list of 1939 releases is a bit of a subjective exercise, but Adams' choices they're the first six titles listed here are apt. Drawing on an extensive variety of sources, from books about the stars and directors to film histories like Aljean Harmetz's *The Making of the Wizard of Oz* (1977) and *On the Road to Tara* (1976), 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. The book lacks an overarching story, something that would tie the six movies together and explore how each of them fit into that glorious Hollywood year, but that's a small quibble. For film buffs, consider this one essential. --David Pitt For die-hard fans looking for info on these films compiled in a single volume. --Library Journal Adams takes us through the conception, production, and release of each of the six films ... and the author has a nice, straightforward, reportorial writing style. For film buffs, consider this one essential. --Booklist A lively and very informative celebration of what most critics and movie buffs consider the greatest year in the history of Hollywood ... packed with analysis, background detail, photos and lots of surprise revelations ... Adams' thorough and exuberant book is an excellent primer on a year when Hollywood's dream factory was operating at maximum efficiency. --Dennis King, *Movie Critic*, *The Oklahoman* Mr. Adams has given us rich detail about each of the films he covers. Readers who also like good films will find themselves wanting to see any of the six they have not already seen. --Peter Hannaford, *Washington Times* Adams's thoroughness and energy make this book appealing to movie lovers ... Adams is both historian and fanatic, giving the book both thoroughness and energy. This book will whet the appetite of movie connoisseurs. --ForeWord s "1939" is a book worthy of the year. --Mick LaSalle, film critic, *San Francisco Chronicle* About the Author Charles F. Adams is chairman of the Wajim Corporation and president of Adams Enterprises. He spent his work career in international marketing and was president and chief operating officer of Darcy, MacManus and Masius, Inc., one of the world's largest advertising agencies. He is also a former owner and general partner of the Pittsburgh Penguins of the National Hockey League. Adams is the author of a number of books, including *Murder by the Bay* and *The Complete Geezer Guidebook*, both available from Quill Driver Books.