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## Almost Hollywood: The Forgotten Story of Jacksonville, Florida

*Blair Miller*

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ALMOST HOLLYWOOD



THE FORGOTTEN STORY OF  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

BLAIR MILLER

FOREWORD BY NED THANHOUSER

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**Blair Miller : Almost Hollywood: The Forgotten Story of Jacksonville, Florida** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Almost Hollywood: The Forgotten Story of Jacksonville, Florida:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book provides great facts about the old JacksonvilleBy Athena FortenberryThis book provides great facts about the old Jacksonville, FL.It is written with just fact after fact. It is not like a story more of a history book.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. One of the sorriest excuses for a

book I have ever read. What a terrible disappointment. This is less a book than a selection of archived articles from Jacksonville newspapers that were retyped without having been proofread. The Forgotten Story would seem to refer to the author having forgotten to contextualize the aforementioned articles and actually tell the story of how Jacksonville's movie production dreams failed to materialize.

Blair Miller tells the story of the motion picture industry as it developed in Jacksonville after the turn of the twentieth century. *Almost Hollywood* reveals the meteoric rise and fall of Jacksonville in early silent films.

What caused this abrupt reversal of fortune forcing the film industry out of Jacksonville and into Hollywood? To answer this question, Blair Miller has resurrected the forgotten story of the rise and fall of the motion picture industry in Jacksonville. He provides us with a compelling view into the intriguing political climate, social issues, and global events that contributed to Jacksonville's meteoric rise and fall that took place in just a few short years. Through painstaking research, compilation of contemporary news articles, and personal research in Jacksonville's archives, he reveals this story by recounting the history of a dozen or so studios, including Thanhouser, which bet on Jacksonville as the next mecca for filmmaking, while weaving through it the political maneuverings of civic leaders who forfeited Jacksonville's chance at becoming what we know today as Hollywood. (Ned Thanhouser, president, Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc.)

About the Author Blair Miller has had a lifelong interest in silent film comedies. His previous book, *American Silent Film Comedies: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Persons, Studios and Terminology* (1995), is considered a reference in the field. He currently lives in Rochester, New York.