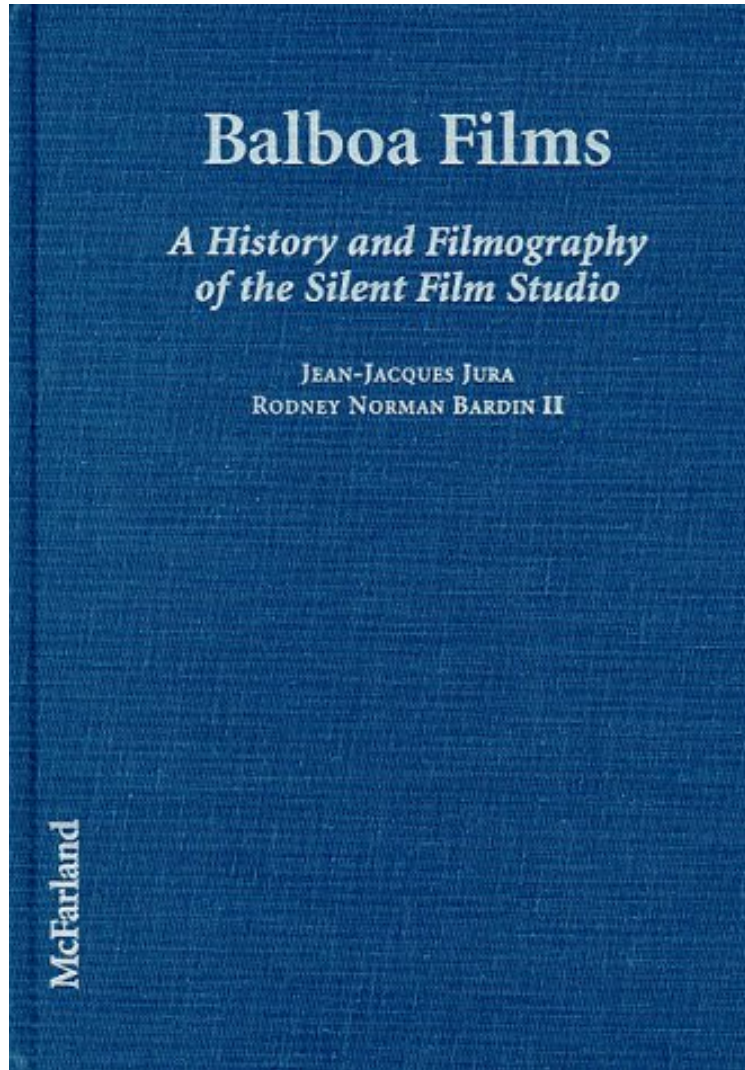


Balboa Films: A History and Filmography of the Silent Film Studio

Rodney Norman Bardin II

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Rodney Norman Bardin II : Balboa Films: A History and Filmography of the Silent Film Studio before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Balboa Films: A History and Filmography of the Silent Film Studio:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive history of a little known studio By Bruce Calvert This book delves into the little-known history of the Balboa Film studio in Long Beach California. The Balboa studio gave Hollywood, California a run for its money in the 'teens. Hundreds of short dramas, westerns, serials, and features were shot there. Unfortunately, the studio was still expanding when a movie industry slowdown hit in 1918 due to World War I and the influenza epidemic. It was soon out of business, and was torn down in the mid-1920s when the oil

business took over Long Beach. This book is very well researched, and it has a very detailed filmography of the studio at the end. Several of the major stars of the era are profiled. The book does have a couple of flaws though. Sometimes the authors reprint press agent puffery that makes the studio and the stars seem more important than they really were. Also, the authors relied on the book THE DEED OF DEATH for information on director William Desmond Taylor's murder. Subsequent research has revealed that DEED OF DEATH has several important facts about Taylor and the murder wrong. Still, I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in silent film history or Long Beach, California history. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This is a remarkable work in scope and depth. By A Customer I have read "Reel 4" twice, and I read it again last night. I must say that I am filled with awe at the amount of work you have put into your research. One of the things that I found most interesting was the background of the stars at Balboa. Being such a small child I really did not know them. Now, after all these years, I feel I do, to a certain extent. You are gifted writers with a wonderful style of writing, so easy and natural--you make your readers "real page turners, eager to know what is coming next." I enjoyed very much the sections on Baby Marie; you were so indulgent with me. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Valuable but clumsily presented early film history By Hans J. Wollstein This reader was frankly a bit disappointed by "Balboa Films." Yes, all the information is there but it is a tough task to separate the actual history of the little company from the hyperbole. The authors have for some reason bought into the era's flowery press agency and their Balboa Amusement Producing Company is on several pages compared to the later M-G-M in importance. Still and all, any book on the early film industry -- especially local film-making away from Hollywood -- is greatly appreciated. Despite its flaws, "Balboa Films" is recommended reading.

This book first explores the history of filmmaking in Long Beach and then fully details the story of Balboa. The extensive filmography includes length, copyright date when available, cast and credits, and a plot summary.

"a solid and thorough investigation.... The breadth of the study, its detailed filmography...and its careful scholarship make this a very worthwhile book" -- Choice "entertaining and absorbing...wonderful pictures...well researched" -- Past Times "the impact that this independent studio had upon this era of movie making [is] not to be taken lightly. ...A Silents Majority Must Read" -- The Silents Majority On-Line Journal "the life-and afterlife-of the studio is documented in quite incredible detail...most welcome" -- Classic Images About the Author Jean-Jacques Jura teaches college French and English; Rodney Norman Bardin II is a radio talk show host. Both live in Long Beach, California.