



# Behind the Screen: How Gays and Lesbians Shaped Hollywood, 1910-1969

*William J. Mann*

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## **Behind the Screen: How Gays and Lesbians Shaped Hollywood, 1910-1969** William J. Mann

William Mann's *Behind the Screen* is a thoughtful and eye-opening look at the totality of the gay experience in studio-era Hollywood. Much has been written about how gays have been portrayed in the movies but no book—until now—has looked at their influence behind the screen. Whether out of or in the closet, gays and lesbians have from the very beginning played a significant role in shaping Hollywood. Gay actors were among the earliest matinee idols and gay directors have long been among the most popular and commercially successful filmmakers. In fact, gay set and costume designers created the very look of Hollywood.

With this landmark book, Mann fills a void in the Hollywood history archives. Written in the tradition of Neal Gabler's *An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood* and based on hundreds of hours of interviews with survivors of this golden age, *Behind the Screen* is destined to become a classic of film literature.

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