



The Films of the Forties

Tony Thomas

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One of the great decades of Hollywood history..if not the greatest...was the ten years between 1940 and 1950. In that richly productive era many of the motion pictures which will remain classics, as long as prints are available, were produced and released. In that era, too, the Second World War was the impetus for the studios to devote much of their product to propaganda films documentaries, and other films which came under a new classification: morale builders. And the forties saw the release of the best musical films ever made. Tony Thomas, an internationally known film historian and author of many books on the motion picture, has surveyed the decade and, in the process of commenting on all the films of the period, has selected what he considers the ten most important films of each year. Readers familiar with the films will relive great cinema moments, and those who have not yet seen them can anticipate viewing pleasure. Rebecca, How Green Was My Valley, The Ox Bow Incident, Meet Me in St. Louis, and How, Voyager were only a few highwater marks of the decade. The Films are copiously illustrated with stills, as well as on the set shots and candid photos of the period. The book contains more than four hundred photographs. Mr Thomas has written a perceptive introduction which summarizes the decade and depicts various facets of the Hollywood lifestyle of the period. In all, this is a brilliant addition to the history and folklore of motion pictures.

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