



# The Genius of the System: Hollywood Filmmaking in the Studio Era

*Thomas Schatz*

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In *The Genius of the System*, Thomas Schatz recalls Hollywood's Golden Age from the 1920s until the dawn of television in the late 1940s, when quality films were produced swiftly and cost efficiently thanks to the intricate design of the system. Schatz takes us through the rise and fall of individual careers and the making—and unmaking—of movies such as *Frankenstein*, *Casablanca*, and Hitchcock's *Notorious*. Through detailed analysis of major Hollywood moviemakers including Universal, Warner Bros., and MGM, he reminds us of a time when studios had distinct personalities and the relationship between contracts and creativity was not mutually exclusive.

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