

## Thalberg: The Last Tycoon and the World of M-G-M

*Roland Flamini*

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#1014825 in Books 1994-02-22 1994-02-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 6.50 x 1.25l, #File Name: 0517586401309 pages | File size: 62.Mb

**Roland Flamini : Thalberg: The Last Tycoon and the World of M-G-M** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thalberg: The Last Tycoon and the World of M-G-M:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Thalberg-Last of the Tycoons By B White This was the kind of book you want to memorize if you are interested in the early beginnings of MGM. Thalberg started out as a secretary to Carl Lemelle, and his brilliance and observance of the film industry was noticed by Lemelle and Irving was placed at Universal as Producer. He took a company with low revenues, and with poor management and made it into a thriving movie making business. He left there to join forces with Mayer, and they made the deals that subsequently formed MGM. You will learn much about other producers- and how Irving operated and made MGM a multi-million dollar business. The journalism is very accurate. I could hardly put this book down for one who wants to digest the early makings of MGM. I also found the spot online where THalberg had his "Ocean Front" home in Santa Monica. Amazing what the internet can tell you. I would recommend this book. Nice B W pics too. Barb1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Irving Thalberg: Much More Than The Annual Award By Jeffrey RA detailed and interesting biography on one of most influential early Hollywood figures. Irving Thalberg was much more than the man whose name is often associated with his annual award given at the Academy Awards. The victim of a congenital heart defect, Thalberg accomplished in his 37 years more than most do in double the life. Anyone interested in early Hollywood history cannot truly understand those times without reading this book and understanding Thalberg's perseverance and tenacity. Although Thalberg died in 1936, his influence remains to the present day. 0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. A good bioBy A fanA good overall bio on Irving thalberg !

Profiles the influential Hollywood figure of the 1920s and 1930s, from his role in the creation of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, through his contributions to Hollywood history, to his untimely death at the age of thirty-seven. 15,000 first printing. National ad/promo.

From Publishers WeeklyIn an editorial appearing shortly after his death in 1936 at age 37, the New York Times called Irving Thalberg "the most important factor" in the motion picture industry. He became head of Universal Studio at 20 and MGM's production chief three years later, supervising more than 400 movies. Archetype of the creative producer, Thalberg brought a new sense of style and glamour to the screen during Hollywood's golden era. This is the first full-dress biography of the legendary producer, revealing the scope of his involvement in such movies as *Mutiny on the Bounty*, *A Night at the Opera*, *Camille*, *Grand Hotel* and *Ben-Hur*. Flamini describes Thalberg's complex relationship with his MGM partner Louis B. Mayer, his battles over censorship with the Hays office and his attempt to turn his wife, Norma Shearer, into the first lady of the screen. Flamini ( *Scarlett, Rhett, and a Cast of Thousands* ) makes good use of Universal and MGM archives and interviews with Thalberg's friends and collaborators to get a firm grip on this elusive, enigmatic figure. And he makes short work of F. Scott Fitzgerald's portrait of Hollywood's boy wonder in *The Last Tycoon*, which Flamini calls the novelist's fantasy of himself as Thalberg. Photos. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalAnyone with an interest in movies has heard the name Irving G. Thalberg. The Oscar given in his name, for "consistent high quality of production achievement for an individual producer," is thoroughly justified. This biography also does justice to the man who led a brief but amazingly productive life. Thalberg was the creative force behind Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, even though Louis B. Mayer had the name recognition. This interesting look at a fascinating man who lived in the tragic shadow of a deadly illness never resorts to gossip or innuendo. It gives a balanced portrait of his professional accomplishments and failures and of his private life as the husband of actress Norma Shearer. A suggested purchase for larger film collections.- Sherle Abramson, Williamsburg Regional Lib., Va.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistMost modern-day movie fans know Irving Thalberg simply through the special Academy Award given each year that bears his name; however, Hollywood insiders know Thalberg as a pioneer, a man who, in his limited time, strove to make high-quality pictures that would give MGM Studios legitimacy in the world of art. Called "the boy genius" because of his youth and the innovations he sought to make, Thalberg always knew he was living on borrowed time due to a heart condition that doctors claimed would kill him by age 30. When he died in 1936 at age 37, Thalberg was married to Norma Shearer, one of the world's most glamorous movie stars, whose career he had helmed for several years in his trademark quietly intense manner. Flamini's solid, fact-driven narrative concentrates on Thalberg the man, tracing his forays into writing and his relationships with writers he thought would bring additional prestige to the studio, such as F. Scott Fitzgerald and William Faulkner. The central antagonist opposite Thalberg is Louis B. Mayer, initially a mentor and later a jealous rival in the struggle for control of MGM, studio of "more stars than there are in heaven." And what stars! Here are Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, Jean Harlow, Charles Laughton, the Marx Brothers, and the fabulous Garbo herself. Movie buffs will swoon over the stories of the making of such films as *Camille* and the silent versions of *Ben-Hur*, *Mutiny on the Bounty*, and *A Night at the Opera*. Thalberg's fascinating story reveals much about the workings of Hollywood's golden age. Joe Collins