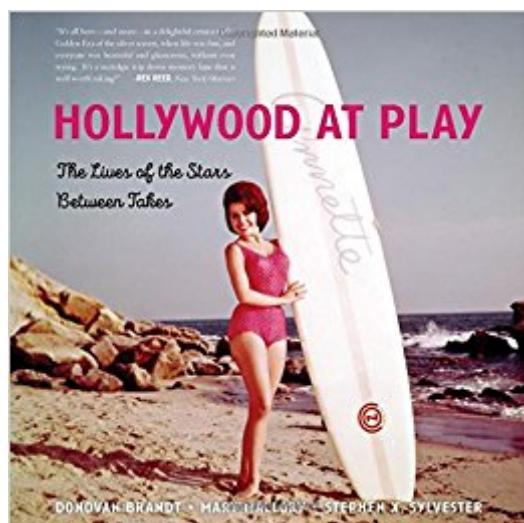


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# Hollywood At Play: The Lives Of The Stars Between Takes



## Synopsis

Fans from around the world continue to be fascinated by classic-era Hollywood (1925-1960) and its larger-than-life stars. Nostalgia for this simpler, more glamorous time offers a safe and temporary escape from our complex lives. The authors capture this era with in Hollywood at Play, featuring unique and rarely seen images of such legendary stars as Audrey Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable, Judy Garland, W.C. Fields, and Tyrone Power enjoying fun and relaxation outside of their studios. Hollywood at Play presents iconic images of the classic stars taking time out from the demands of celebrity to enjoy dancing, bike-riding, roller skating, bowling, and playing tennis; diversions offering a chance to relax and be themselves. This delightful and unique book will appeal to classic movie fans, and enthusiasts of celebrity, fashion, and Hollywood history. The photos contained in Hollywood at Play come from the collection of Eddie Brandt's Saturday Matinee, Hollywood's first and oldest family-owned photo archive. From the 800,000 images available in their collection the authors have chosen over 200 fascinating and rare photos to include in this book. Among the photos are eight rare photos of a young Marilyn Monroe at play; Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland frolicking at a pool party; Steve McQueen and James Garner astride McQueen's iconic motorcycle between takes of The Great Escape; Bobby Darin and Sandra Dee out on the town; Sammy Davis Jr. hamming it up with Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra; and many others.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If you share my affection for candid shots of the stars you'll love Hollywood at Play: The Lives of the Stars Between Takes (Lyons Press), compiled and annotated by Donovan Brandt, Mary Mallory, and Stephen X. Sylvester. Whether you're looking for uncommon photos of William Boyd or Doris Day, you'll be happy with this delightful collection." - Leonard Maltin, Indiewire.com "The new book Hollywood at Play: The Lives of the Stars Between Takes is like flipping through a compact photo album of vintage photos of actors having fun barbecuing, bowling, and hanging out at Disneyland." - LAmag.com

"It's all here - and more - in a delightful return to the Golden Era of the silver screen, when life was fun, and everyone was beautiful and glamorous, without even trying. It's a nostalgic trip down memory lane that is well worth taking!" - Rex Reed, New York Observer

Great pictures and info from the golden age of Hollywood !

pretty basic.

it was ok

This kind of book is just catnip. Posed photos of Golden Era movie stars "at play". As stars like Dick Powell, John Garfield, Vincent Price and Betty Grable, and even really big names like Bogart, begin to fade from memory it's important, at least to me, to keep them still in mind. It helps if the curator has a sense of humor about the whole thing, and I doubt it was an accident that the first four star photos all featured a star with his or her special Scotty dog pet. Do you really think of Bette Davis as a "dog person"? Anyway, apart from histories of Hollywood's greatest bars, restaurants and watering holes, the next best thing is stars cavorting around pools. (As to the former, nothing beats Mark Bailey's "Of All the Gin Joints: Stumbling Through Hollywood History", which would be perfect paired with this book.) The photos are a gift wrapped nostalgia parade. Of course, we have the stars. But look behind and around them, too. Banquet tables loaded with "Old Crow" bourbon bottles and littered with ashtrays and crushed red Pall Mall unfiltered cigarette packs. Argyle socks, half inch wide belts, fedoras, and more Lionel "Prairie Steamer" train sets and celebrity dads than you would have thought possible. (As a sort of bonus there are also shots of memorabilia like old hotel adverts,

playbills, advertisements for various Hollywood attractions, matchbook covers from the old nightclubs, and that sort of thing.) The authors describe this as a "celebration of celebrity and simpler times", and it does seem like this was a simpler, milder, and more comfortable celebrity culture than we have now. To be fair, the authors freely acknowledge that this classic-era, (1925-1960), Hollywood has been sanitized here for your viewing pleasure, with all of the nasty and unjust bits swept under the carpet. Sure, these images were staged, and were intended to serve ulterior purposes - maintain a sense of glamour, paper over trouble with marriages and kids, deflect attention from various indiscretions or problems with those "Old Crow" bottles. But, we are wisely reminded that these photos, at heart, capture the time's prevailing idea of play and relaxation and escape, (including, apparently, bowling and playing golf in high heels). So, read the book as a collection of metaphors of how we wanted life to be, or read it as something of a coded historical document, or just look at it as an unashamed and affectionate nostalgia piece. If you grew up with these people as your entertainers and as your celebrities, you might be surprised by how many memories a book like this can trigger. And as I said, as these sorts of books go this one is thorough and good-natured, but also just a touch ironic and just a bit edgy, because it is at bottom and ultimately a collection of dreams, and dreams are just such tricky stuff. (Please note that I received a free advance will-self-destruct-in-x-days Adobe Digital copy of this book without a review requirement, or any influence regarding review content should I choose to post a review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

Hollywood at Play: The Lives of the Stars Between Takes by Steven X. Sylvester et. al. is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in early January. Candid, cheerful, and with just a thin slice of ham, this book extends a wee bit ahead of their timeline for Classic Hollywood between 1925-1960 and includes personalities both familiar and (for me) relatively unknown, yet very acclaimed. What I loved learning about the most was celebrity-owned clubs and restaurants, themed parties, studio lots, and tourist attractions, long since shut-down - that could easily be a book all unto itself.

updated on 19 Jan 2017 A very interesting collection of photographs from Hollywood's early days. Those who are fascinated by the stars of yesteryear will be highly pleased with this book. Photographs are accompanied by interesting information pertaining to each photo. An outstanding collection.

Bogart playing chess? Carole Lombard bowling (in high heels)? Frankenstein swinging a bat, with

Buster Keaton as catcher? In contrast to the glamour publicity portraits, this lighthearted volume shows Hollywood's equally calculated efforts to present the stars as playful, fun-loving folk, just like the rest of us. Unseen for decades, these rare and colorful photos will delight and surprise even the most dedicated film fan.

A cute hardcover book with "candid" shots of Hollywood movie stars. It's a nice quality book for a relatively decent price, less than \$10 is what I paid, and I saw some photos of some of my favorites I'd never seen before. I'm happy to add it to my Old Hollywood bookshelf!

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