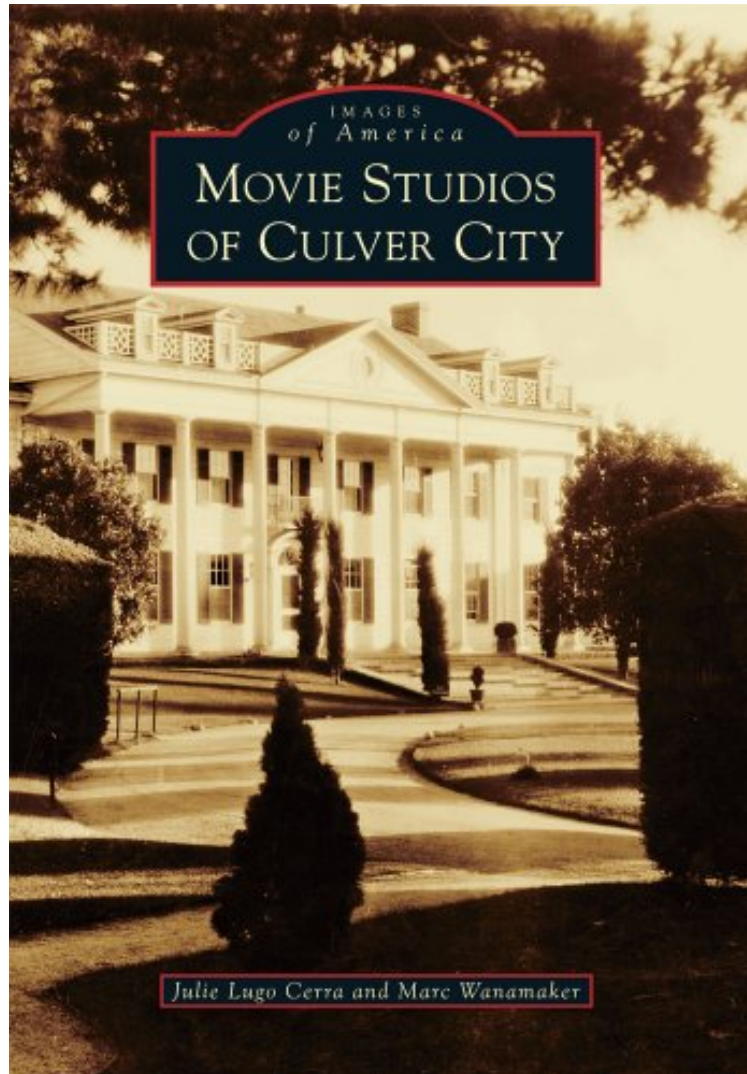


(Free) Movie Studios of Culver City (Images of America Series)

## Movie Studios of Culver City (Images of America Series)

*Julie Lugo Cerra, Marc Wanamaker*

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**Julie Lugo Cerra, Marc Wanamaker : Movie Studios of Culver City (Images of America Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Movie Studios of Culver City (Images of America Series):

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Gives Culver City Its Rightful Place In The Landscape of Film MakingBy R PRIUSIn keeping with the IMAGES OF AMERICA SERIES, this book follows the general formula which combines a narrative with archived photos to tell a story. And what a story it is. Culver City was little more than a farming community stuck between Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean when a real estate developer/promoter named

Harry Culver realized that the area had immense potential in linking it to Los Angeles. As it turned out, with Culver's drive and determination the newly minted city became an attractive choice for the film industry (then in its infancy) to locate studios there. Just as California attracted film makers with its favorable weather conditions, Culver City provided the industry with an abundance of cheap land, a congenial atmosphere, ample good weather, and close proximity to LA. The focus of this book is as a historical record of the movie studios which have operated out of Culver City and the changes that have occurred due to business and economic conditions over the years. The studios are broken down in sections that look at the first Thomas Ince Studio (more commonly identified as MGM which resided there for decades), the second Thomas Ince Studio (known as Selznick International, Desilu, Laird, and Culver through the years), the now defunct Hal E. Roach Studio, and a series of lesser known studios that were eventually absorbed by the larger studios or abandoned. Crammed with pictures that illustrate the changes that have taken place and captions which describe those changes and serve as a meaningful point of reference, this book does a great job of telling an interesting story that has yet to have a final chapter. For me, it offered a new perspective regarding how films are made and crosses the thin line between fantasy and reality. The pictures are great and combined with the text/captions do an effective job of documenting the movie studios of Culver City.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. broad but not too deep introduction to the real home of Hollywood  
By Terri M. Sweeney  
If you are interested in Hollywood, you really need to look at Culver City, where the studios and their back lots REALLY were. This series is good, but suffers from the small format of the book, making photos with a lot of content too small. It covers the evolution of "Hollywood" at Culver City, home of *Gone with the Wind's* Tara and Atlanta (which became Mayberry!), *Showboat* (not shot on a river!), and thousands of classic movies and TV shows. Lots of pictures and interesting facts and history, but not the depth of coverage you want if a true fan. It's a tasty appetizer. Buy the MGM book below and get a meal, at least on ONE Culver studio. I must admit this review is colored by my just reading the MAGNIFICENT (and larger) MGM, Hollywood's Greatest Backlot.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ronald Reagan and the Key Stone Cops served here....  
By Pvt. W. G. Kirby  
Customer  
Hollywood studios were not just in one area. All around Los Angeles are sites of many studios of yesteryear and today host network TV studios or have been developed into housing or business districts. This book looks at Culver City in much the same way as the Acacia book on the Warner Brothers Studios. See my review of that book for more details. Why the stuff about Reagan and the Keystone Cops? Culver a city was the site of the original Max Senet Film Studios who did the Keystone Cops silent film comedy shorts. Studios eventually became U.S Army Air Forces studio for Motion Picture Unit One, source of most WWII training films. The facility was under command of USAAF Captain Ronald Reagan. Got it? My order was delivered promptly and in fine condition...never doubted when sends it!

After watching pioneer filmmaker Thomas Ince film one of his famous Westerns on Ballona Creek, city founder Harry Culver saw the economic base for his city. Culver announced plans for the city in 1913 and attracted three major movie studios to Culver City, along with smaller production companies. The Heart of Screenland is fittingly etched across the Culver City seal. These vintage images are a tour through the storied past of this company town on the legendary movie lots bearing the names of Thomas Ince, Hal Roach, Goldwyn, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Lorimar, MGM-UA, Columbia, Sony Pictures, DeMille, RKO-Pathé, Selznick, Desilu, Culver City Studios, Laird International, the Culver Studios, and such nearly forgotten mini-factories as the Willat Studios. On these premises, *Gone With the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Citizen Kane*, *E.T: The Extra-Terrestrial*, and other classics were filmed, along with tens of thousands of television shows and commercials featuring Elvis Presley, the Beatles, Michael Jackson, and many others.

About the Author  
Author Julie Lugo Cerra, Culver City's official historian, dovetails her unique sense of industry history in the city with the evocative images of Bison Archives, one of Southern California's largest historical-image collections, owned by coauthor and film historian Marc Wanamaker.