

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Studio System

An area of multiple panels for the 2017 Film & History Conference:
Representing “Home”: The Real and Imagined Spaces of Belonging
The Hilton—Milwaukee City Center, Milwaukee, WI (USA)
November 1-5, 2017

DEADLINE for abstracts: June 1, 2017 (early decision) July 1, 2017 (general decision)

The Hollywood studio system was a well-oiled machine that produced some of the most important films in history. From innovative production practices to courageous content, the studios created big business out of popular culture. Incredibly dynamic, the studio system regularly sparked creativity and ingenuity, yet was often times oppressive, as well.

In what ways did motion picture products of the studio system shape Americans’ notions of their homes, both individual and national? How is “home” depicted through a specific genre, film or filmmaker during the studio era? How did McCarthyism and the Blacklist dismantle the careers and creative “homes” of actors, directors, and other film personnel?

This area welcomes unique perspectives that continue the discussion of the studio system and further its academic study. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- What “Home” meant to any studio era Hollywood production company (MGM, Warner Bros., Paramount, Universal, Columbia, poverty row, etc.)
- Stories of the numerous stars and filmmakers who grew up on and around studio lots, which became their home in many ways.
- Viewing “home” through the lens of religious filmmakers (ex: Cecil B. DeMille)
- The production of popular genres of the studio era (Warner gangsters, Universal monsters, MGM musicals, etc.)
- Analyses of an individual studio during a particular time period in this era (Universal of the 1930s, Postwar MGM, etc.)
- Influence of B-films and lesser-known studio era filmmakers on contemporary directors (for example, Sam Fuller’s influence on Martin Scorsese)
- The battle between censors (PCA, MPPDA, individual filmmakers) and the studios
- That Barton Fink Feeling: The plight of writers during the studio era

- Rise and Fall: The origins and/or decline of the studio system
- Politics of the studio era (HUAC, IATSE, SGA, etc.)

Proposals for complete panels (three related presentations) are also welcome, but they must include an abstract and contact information, including an e-mail address, for each presenter. For updates and registration information about the upcoming meeting, see the Film & History website (www.filmandhistory.org).

Please e-mail your 200-word proposal to the area chair:

Chris Yogerst
University of Wisconsin Colleges
chrisyogerst@hotmail.com