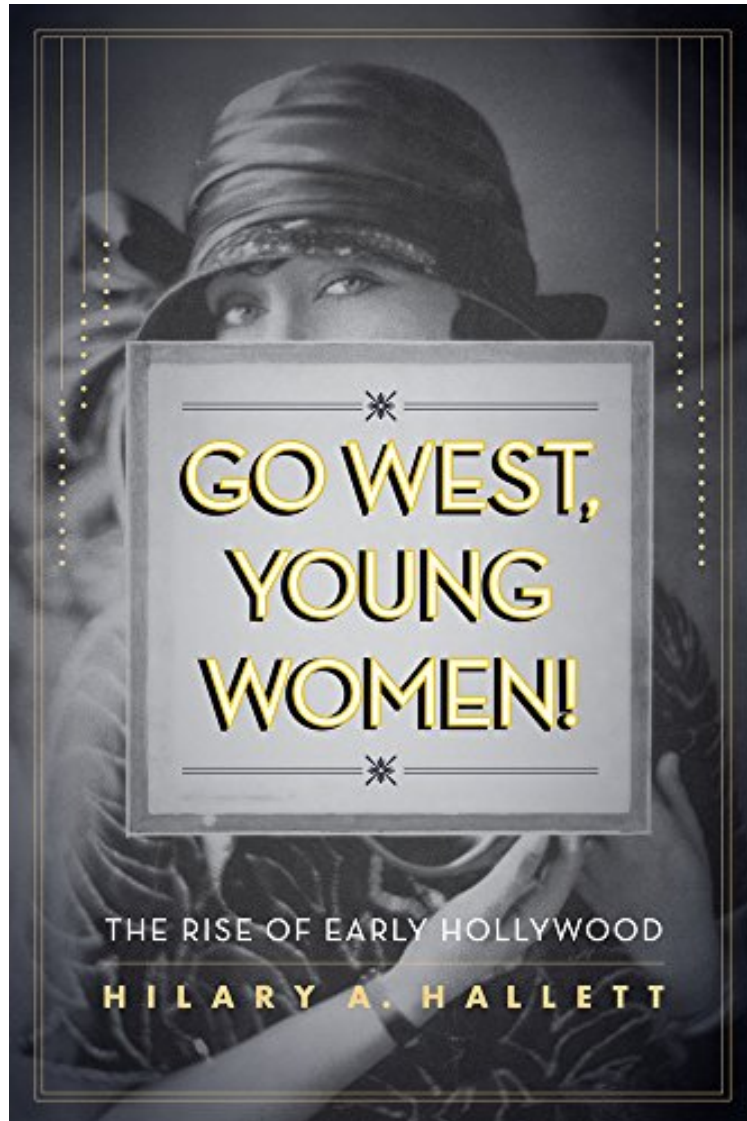


[Ebook pdf] Go West, Young Women!: The Rise of Early Hollywood

Go West, Young Women!: The Rise of Early Hollywood

Hilary Hallett

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Hilary Hallett : Go West, Young Women!: The Rise of Early Hollywood before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Go West, Young Women!: The Rise of Early Hollywood:

11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Worthy addition to the film and women's history bookshelvesBy CatmommieIn Go West, Young Women! Hilary A. Hallett takes a closer look at the women who migrated to Los Angeles in the teens and twenties to work in the early film industry, and the women who consumed the increasingly glamorous products the industry created for them. Hallett makes excellent use of business, labor, and demographics statistics to show that nearly 75% of Hollywood's product was made for women, and nearly all film secondary

industries, such as fan magazines, were aimed at the female consumer. Women were employed in the film industry in larger numbers and at higher wages than were the norm in other industries, from the storied female producers, directors, and actresses such as Mary Pickford, Clara Kimball Young, and Norma Talmadge, to women working behind the scenes as editors, writers, designers, and in other capacities. Hallett also examines the bipolar social attitudes toward these New Women--attitudes that are still thick on the ground today--from the positive views of Pickford, Talmadge, Pearl White, and others, to the overwhelmingly negative views of the woman at the center of Hollywood's first sex scandal, Virginia Rappe. Hallett again makes excellent use of primary source materials from the Arbuckle-Rappe scandal to pointedly criticize the view of Rappe as a disease-ridden trollop who deserved what she got. This reviewer has no problem with that. Now for the quibble section of the review: although Hallett is correct in her depiction of the contemporary and current spin on the scandal, she does make factual mistakes about Virginia Rappe and other people involved in the scandal that, while not germane to her thesis, were careless and easily avoided. Hallett is also far more diplomatic than I'd be, burying this critical statement in a note instead of in the first chapter: "I found no transcript for any of the following three trials. The first biography interested in clearing the comedian's name was David Yallop's. Yallop claims to have obtained copies of the transcripts, but in comparing his use to the one in my possession, I found that he misrepresents the dialogue. Two other popular biographies display similar tendencies: Andy Edmonds's...Stuart Oderman's...[Robert] Young also presents a similar portrait of Rappe, relying on Yallop whom he otherwise criticizes, and on an oral history by Arbuckle's wife. When I asked Young about the evidence he used for his portrait of Rappe, his reply demonstrated his absorption of such assumptions himself." Although the book is dense and information rich, it's engagingly written; thankfully Hallett has eschewed academese. *Go West, Young Women!* is a welcome addition to the film and women's history bookshelves.

In the early part of the twentieth century, migrants made their way from rural homes to cities in record numbers and many traveled west. Los Angeles became a destination. Women flocked to the growing town to join the film industry as workers and spectators, creating a New Woman. Their efforts transformed filmmaking from a marginal business to a cosmopolitan, glamorous, and bohemian one. By 1920, Los Angeles had become the only western city where women outnumbered men. In *Go West, Young Women*, Hilary A. Hallett explores these relatively unknown new western women and their role in the development of Los Angeles and the nascent film industry. From Mary Pickford's rise to become perhaps the most powerful woman of her age, to the racist moral panics of the post-World War I years that culminated in Hollywood's first sex scandal, Hallett describes how the path through early Hollywood presaged the struggles over modern gender roles that animated the century to come.

Don't miss *Go West, Young Women!*