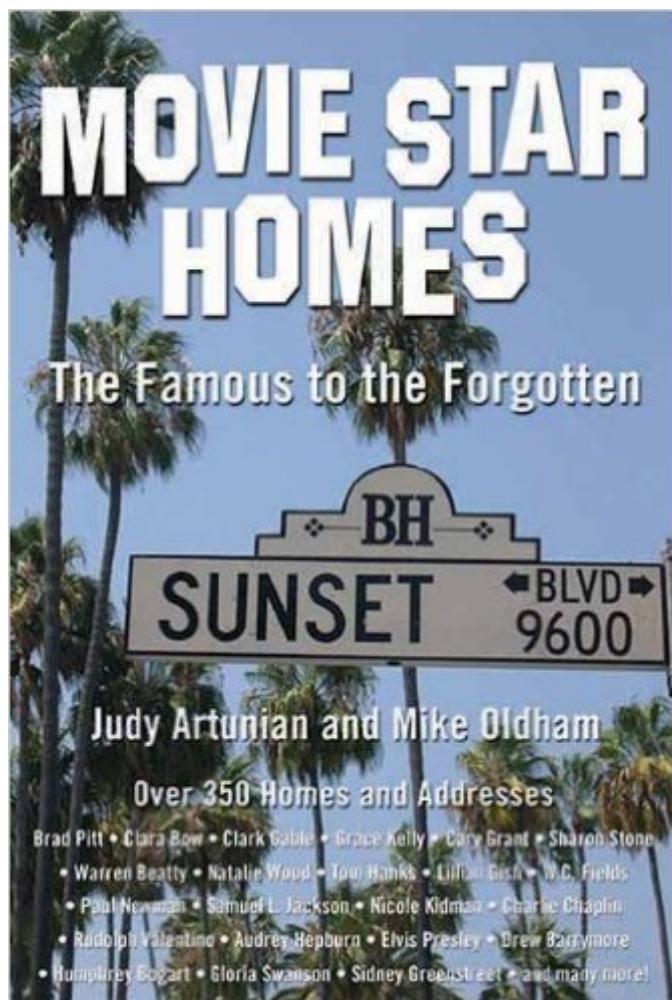


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# Movie Star Homes: The Famous To The Forgotten



## **Synopsis**

From Gloria Swanson's 1918 Hollywood bungalow to Brad Pitt's Beverly Hills estate, Movie Star Homes: The Famous to the Forgotten profiles the extravagant, lavish, and eccentric residences of the rich and famous. Each of the entries includes a photo of the star and brief summation of the star's career, the address of the star's home, a photo of the home as it looks today, and fascinating facts about the residence. In addition to magnificent mansions, the homes where celebrities lived before they became famous are also featured, such as Natalie Wood's humble 1945 residence and the home of Buster Keaton before he built his famed Italian villa in Beverly Hills.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you love Hollywood, architecture or are just curious about what kind of homes the movie stars live in, you will find this book fascinating. It includes over 350 entries - from silent greats (Garbo, Valentino) to modern day stars (Brad Pitt & Jennifer Anniston) - although the majority of the entries are the classic stars of yester-year. Each entry includes the address, a brief sentence or two about their career and fame followed by a paragraph about the house itself and a black and white photo. The photos are usually good although there are some that are very small and others in which you can only see a fence or a driveway. The captions note that some of the stars only lived in the houses for a few years. You might be surprised at how modest a lot of the homes are! An appendix gives "movie star homes by region" and "theme tours." If you are taking a trip to Hollywood, you will definitely want to take this book with you, and it is a fun book to browse even if you are not going

there.

As soon as I started leafing through this book I was apalled by its inaccuracies and omissions. For example William Holden: No mention is made of the apartment building on Ocean Ave in Santa Monica which he owned and where he died. No mention is made of Jimmy Stewarts home at 918 Roxbury Drive where he and his wife Gloria lived for 45 years until his death in 1989. Elizabeth Taylor is cited as living at Nancy Sinatra (the mother's) former home at 700 Nimes Road in Bel Air. The Sinatra pad was only a small modern house. The bulk of Elizabeth Taylor's estate is on the several acre 688 Nimes Road property originally belonging to Warner Baxter and later to Jack Ryan, designer of the Barbie doll. Warner Baxter's listing does not even mention the address of that estate. These are errors I saw in the first 15 minutes I skimmed through the book.

If you want glossy pictures, this is not for you. If you want short background information and black and white, this book is for you. I was disappointed because of the size of the photos, but I did enjoy the short reads.

This is a good guide to over 350 homes of Hollywood stars. The book orders the homes by the last name of the star, then includes the address of the home, a paragraph about the star and a paragraph about when the star lived in the home. There are small pictures of the star and the home. The book focuses a lot on really old movie stars, including many from the silent era. The few contemporary stars in the book rarely have their current homes listed--it may be an apartment they stayed in 20 years ago or a first home they purchased before they made it big. A map would also help. For those not familiar with L.A., we have no idea where these houses are in relation to anything else. Compared to other guides that are out, this is a pretty good book but dated. Don't get it if you are trying to find a bunch of modern houses of stars. For movie historians only.

It pains me to say that this is a worthless book. But it will pain you, as well, if you make the same mistake I did in buying it. There's simply nothing to it. What you get is baseball-card biographies of celebrities, followed in the vast number of cases by a photograph of a front gate, or a road with no visible building, or a front door, or some landscaping, or a shot of a hotel in the distance, and occasionally a snapshot of a house. I've had the misfortune of buying some pretty bad books over the years. This one isn't even pretty. It's just bad.

This is a very interesting book for all fans of Hollywood stars, and for those who would like to visit Hollywood and Beverly Hills to see movie star homes. This book provides the address of many Hollywood stars from silent era to the currently active actors and actresses. Most of these houses are located in Beverly Hills and surrounding areas in Southern California. So, if you are driving, then it is easy to cover a lot of houses in one day trip. The authors provide for each house, the street address, a picture of the house, and a brief profile of the actor/actress. In some cases the history of the house is also discussed. One of the reasons that this book interested me was that it contains the addresses of some of my favorite stars of 1920s and 1930s movies. I have NOT listed all the names here, but some of my favorite star's address includes; June Allyson, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, Fred Astaire, Mary Astor, Theda Bara, Lionel Barrymore, Joan Blondell, Clara Bow, Louise Brooks, Billie Burke, Ruth Chatterton, Joan Crawford, Marion Davies, Bette Davis, Marlene Dietrich, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Clark Gable, Greta Garbo, Greer Garson, Janet Gaynor, Lillian Gish, Cary Grant, Jean Harlow, Barbara La Marr, Hedy La Marr, Carole Lombard, Myrna Loy, Jeanette MacDonald, Ramon Navarro, Mary Pickford, Norma Shearer, Barbara Stanwyck, Mae West, and Loretta Young. There are also some younger star home addresses that include; Kim Bassinger, George Clooney, Nicole Kidman and others. I highly recommend this to anyone interested in Hollywood history.

This is a very good book. I enjoyed all of the photos and interesting information about many different movie stars throughout different time periods. Overall this is a great book that is very fun to read.

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