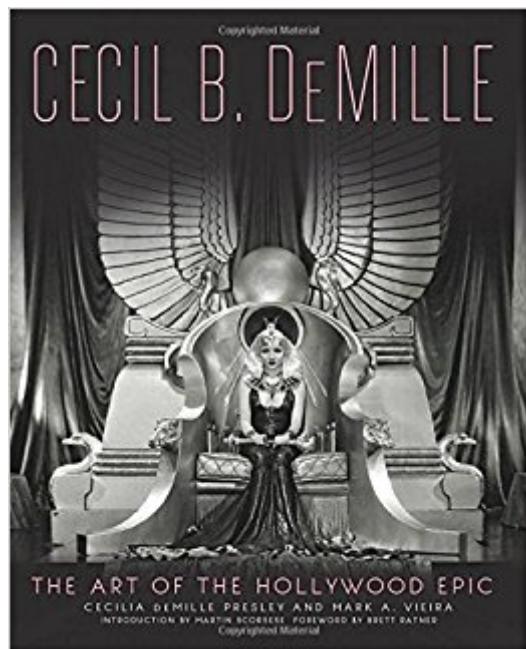


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# Cecil B. DeMille: The Art Of The Hollywood Epic



## Synopsis

Colossal. Stupendous. Epic. These adjectives, used by movie companies to hawk their wares, became clichés long ago. When used to describe the films of one director, they are accurate. More than any filmmaker in the history of the medium, Cecil B. DeMille mastered the art of the spectacle. In the process, he became a filmland founder. One hundred years ago, he made the first feature film ever shot in Hollywood and went on to become the most commercially successful producer-director in history. DeMille told his cinematic tales with painterly, extravagant images. The parting of the Red Sea in *The Ten Commandments* was only one of these. There were train wrecks (*The Greatest Show on Earth*); orgies (*Manslaughter*); battles (*The Buccaneer*); Ancient Rome (*The Sign of the Cross*); Ancient Egypt (*Cleopatra*); and the Holy Land (*The Crusades*). The best of these images are showcased here, in *Cecil B. DeMille: The Art of the Hollywood Epic*. This lavish volume opens the King Tut's tomb of cinematic treasures that is the Cecil B. DeMille Archives, presenting storyboard art, concept paintings, and an array of photographic imagery. Historian Mark A. Vieira writes an illuminating text to accompany these scenes. Cecilia de Mille Presley relates her grandfather's thoughts on his various films, and recalls her visits to his sets, including the Egyptian expedition to film *The Ten Commandments*. Like the director's works, *Cecil B. DeMille: The Art of the Hollywood Epic* is a panorama of magnificence; celebrating a legendary filmmaker and the remarkable history of Hollywood.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The 2014 Hollywood holiday offering from Running Press (Edith Head, George Hurrell's Hollywood),

Cecil B. DeMille: The Art of the Hollywood epic is a worthy tribute to the filmmaker. DeMille's films were meticulously researched with sumptuous and often over-the-top production values. This oversize coffee table book does not disappoint. Page after page of beautifully reproduced film stills, costume sketches, and storyboard art are complimented by the engagingly-written text detailing the production of each film from DeMille's grand-daughter, Cecilia DeMille Presley and Mark Vieira--who knows a thing or two about producing lovingly-researched and lavish film history books (Sin in Soft Focus, Hollywood Dreams Made Real). If you love movies you don't want to miss this one.

This book is very different than A.Scott Berg's excellent biography of Cecile B. DeMille. Written by DeMille's granddaughter Cecilia who I assume is the family biographer, she also appears to be the family archivist with access to DeMille's papers, production notes, scripts, etc. I enjoyed this book because it focused on DeMille's epic productions which were vividly detailed and in a sense larger than life. The narrative established goes into detail regarding how DeMille envisioned his production and how ultimately the vision(s) came to fruition. The level of attention to detail was impressive as was the amount of time spent executing plans and reaching a high level of perfection as well as spectacle. Though DeMille's overall output was carefully spaced out for the most part, it was his epic productions that set his work apart and put him in category by himself. I love movies, especially the old and grand films. This was a very interesting book that I did not buy, but received as a Christmas gift and I was and am delighted with it.

Given the number of bios on Cecil B DeMille, there are few revelations, BUT DeMille's granddaughter does add many anecdotes and also sets the record straight on many myths long accepted as fact. The illustrations are spectacular in artistry and print quality with most never before published. There are color images of original sketches, props and restored costumes. Highly recommended and a must have for fans of classic Hollywood.

Cecil B. DeMille will live forever in Hollywood history! He was born in 1881 and died in 1959. DeMille along with film pioneers Jesse Lasky and Samuel Goldwyn founded Famous Players Lasky film company. CBD directed "The Squawman" which was the first super film feature hit; He was there at the beginning of film and lasted longer in active directing than any other film pioneer. Among his smash epics were The Ten Commandments in both silent and talking versions, Samson and Delilah, The Greatest Show on Earth, Cleopatra, The Frontiersman, The Sign of the Cross and

many other epic films. Among the stars he nourished were Gloria Swanson, Charlton Heston, Judy Holliday, Claudette Colbert and many others. DeMille was often accused of being hokey but his films were and are loved by audiences. He was a Christian whose pulpit was the movie screen. DeMille was a faithful husband and father. The book contains dazzling photographs collected by Mark Vieira who is a Hollywood historian. Cecilia de Mille Presley, CBD's grandchild, has written a fine commentary on the films and the career of her grandfather. A great and fun book chock full of delights for those who enjoy film history !

Bought as a gift after seeing the author on TV interviewed about her life with the greatest extravaganza guy ever. Seemed like an interesting read for reference, browsing or just looking at the pictures. We can never get enough Cecil B. in our lives!

I have the new book by DeMille's granddaughter and I can attest that it is certainly worth the money. It's not only a beautiful book, but full of wonderful information about the early days of Hollywood and Mr. DeMille's career. It's definitely a coffee table book, weighing close to seven pounds, but the images are spectacular and it's well worth a reading. I highly recommend it. It's available in hardcover and on Kindle, but, in my opinion, its not the kind of book to look at online, it's worth the effort to hold it and slowly review it page by page.

I didn't realize that DeMille ONLY seemed to make epic films, which I am not very interested in. I really just liked him when he played himself in the movie, Sunset Boulevard. If you like epics and you like DeMille, this is an excellent book with a lot of great photos.

A very large (and heavy!) book, yet it is much more than just a coffee table book full of pictures. While the listings list Presley as the primary author, Mark Vieira appears to have written most of the text (which is actually quite substantial in this 400 page book) and like his previous books, the narrative in this book is informative and yet entertaining, with some marvelous anecdotes and stories. The photography is stunning with an excellent selection not only of stills from the movie sets (DeMille was a great believer in using still photography to document the movie making process) but also of personal and candid photos from DeMille's own collection and that of his granddaughter. The book focuses on his later films, but does not overlook his early career. Very highly recommended.

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