

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Movie Star

An area of multiple panels for the 2014 Film & History Conference on Golden Ages

October 29 - November 2, 2014

Madison Concourse Hotel

Madison, WI USA

DEADLINE for abstracts: June 1, 2014

AREA: The Movie Star

The face of Greta Garbo. The charisma of Cary Grant. The charm of Jimmy Stewart. These are not just regular people. They are “gods” in the cinematic pantheon. The Hollywood star system during the studio era created stars to be admired, molded to fit the style of the studio. Stardom did not happen on its own, but it was carefully manufactured and presented by the studios for public consumption. Names were changed. Beauty was enhanced. Images were created. Still, stardom is hard to define. Who is a star and who is just another actor? Why does the public care so much about the personal lives of stars? Why do we want to be like our favorite stars? What role does stardom play in box office success? How were individual stars constructed by the studios? What role did network television have in the evolution of stardom?

This panel invites papers on a wide range of topics related to the Movie Star during the Golden Ages including (but not limited to):

- Gossip: What was said and written about the public and private lives of stars?
- Transitions: Film stars who transitioned from and to different media including radio and television (Lucille Ball, Fred MacMurray)
- Non-Hollywood: Golden Ages stars of other film industries around the world (India, France, Japan, etc.)
- Publicity and promotion: How did Hollywood studios promote stars and what was written about them?
- Labor: The role of stars in labor unions and as workers in the industry
- Industry: Box office successes and failures of stars
- Fandom: Fan clubs, pin-ups, merchandise, autograph seekers
- Political activism: Republicans and Democrats, war efforts, pet causes (Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Stewart)
- Nostalgia: How are Golden Ages stars relevant today?
- Advertising: What did they sell and how were they selling it?
- Public and Private: On-screen and Off-screen representations and the star persona/image
- Genre: Stars tied to a particular genre (John Wayne, Bob Hope)

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).

Area chairs are invited to submit a 200-word proposal by 1 June 2014, to the area chair:

Area chair: chris@ku.edu