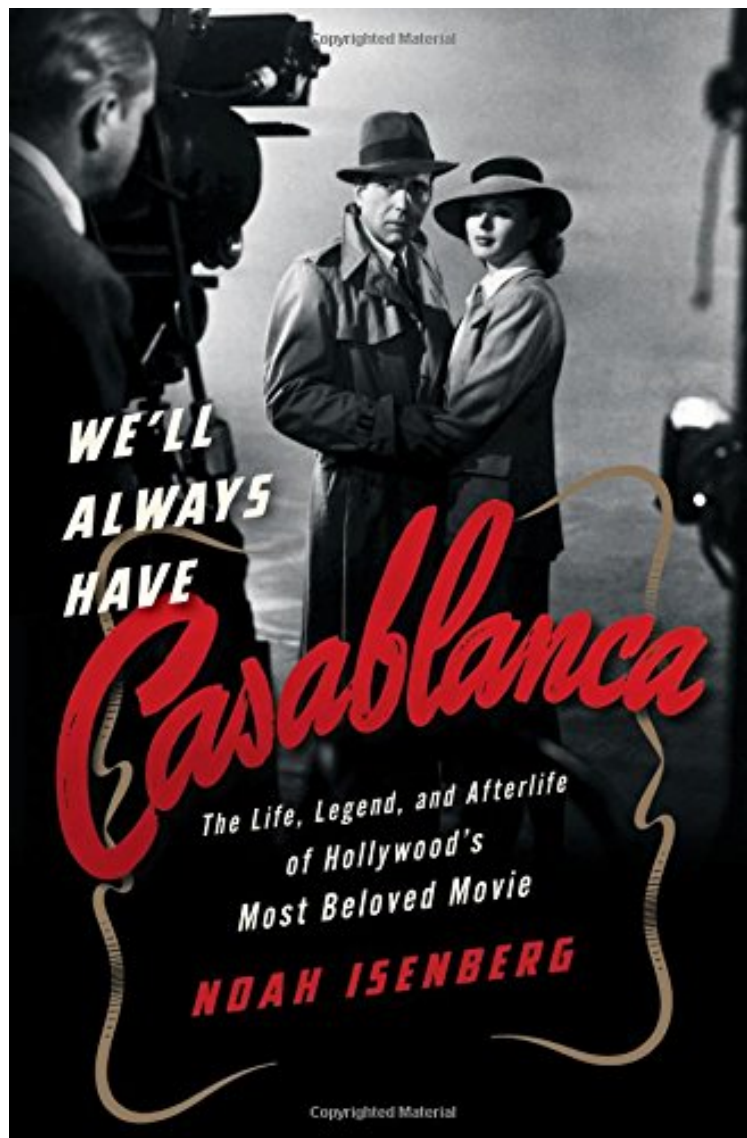


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We'll Always Have Casablanca: The Life, Legend, and Afterlife of Hollywood's Most Beloved Movie

Noah Isenberg

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A Los Angeles Times BestsellerFor the 75th anniversary of its premiere the incredible story of how Casablanca was made and why it remains the most beloved of Hollywood films.Casablanca was first released in 1942, just two weeks after the city of Casablanca itself surrendered to American troops led by General Patton. Featuring a pitch-perfect screenplay, a classic soundtrack, and unforgettable performances by Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and a deep supporting cast, Casablanca was hailed in the New York Times as a picture that makes the spine tingle and the heart take a leap. The film won Oscars for best picture, best director, and best screenplay, and would go on to enjoy more revival screenings than any other movie in history. It became so firmly ensconced in the cultural imagination that, as Umberto Eco once said, Casablanca is not one movie; it is movies. Well Always Have Casablanca is celebrated film historian Noah Isenbergs rich account of this most beloved movies origins. Through extensive research and interviews with filmmakers, film critics, family members of the cast and crew, and diehard fans, Isenberg reveals the myths and realities behind Casablancas production, exploring the transformation of the unproduced stage play into the classic screenplay, the controversial casting decisions, the battles with Production Code censors, and the effect of the wars progress on the movies reception. Isenberg particularly focuses on the central role refugees from Hitlers Europe played in the production (nearly all of the actors and actresses cast in Casablanca were immigrants).Finally, Isenberg turns to Casablancas long afterlife and the reasons it remains so revered. From the Marx Brothers 1946 spoof hit, A Night in Casablanca, to loving parodies in New Yorker cartoons, Saturday Night Live skits, and Simpsons episodes, Isenberg delves into the ways the movie has lodged itself in the American psyche.Filled with fresh insights into Casablancas creation, production, and legacy, Well Always Have Casablanca is a magnificent account of what made the movie so popular and why it continues to dazzle audiences seventy-five years after its release. 24 illustrations

Isenberg gives us . . . a rich miscellany of material that will delight fans of both the film and Hollywoods golden era. His research is clearly second to none. - Lucy Scholes, Times Literary SupplementCombining trenchant analysis of the films poetic and political power with a well-researched and playful account of its legacy, Well Always Have Casablanca is a necessary book and perhaps even an urgent one. - Noah Gittell, Los Angeles of BooksFascinating, packed with fun trivia . . . but also profoundly relevant in [its exploration] of how our politics and creative industries not only hold a mirror to each other but also to the nation. - Rebecca Prime, Los Angeles TimesWe'll Always Have Casablanca is a hugely readable and entertaining look at how Casablanca came to be, and how it came to be such an indelible part of American pop culture. - Chris Foran, Milwaukee Journal SentinelA treasure trove of facts and anecdotes. - Peter Biskind, New York Times Book Four out of four stars. . . . A lively account of the making of the 1942 Warner Bros. classic and why it has endured as 'Hollywood's Most Beloved Movie.' - Bill Desowitz, USA TodayA treasure trove of information . . . but also everything else you could ask for: the fascinating process of coming up with the script, the cast's relation on the set, and the movie's long afterlife in popular culture, right down to the latest SNL parody. Noah Isenberg has produced a delightful page-turner of a book, perfect for every movie fan. - David Mikics, TabletAs Noah Isenberg details in his excellent new book Well Always Have Casablanca, the 1942 film is a case study of how history gets depicted for popular entertainment, but it is also a powerful example of how the Hollywood machine produced work that intersected with political commitment while still holding fast to its romantic conventions. - Michael S. Roth, Chronicle of Higher EducationAbout the AuthorNoah Isenberg is director of screen studies and professor of culture and media at The New School, the author of Edgar G. Ulmer: A Filmmaker at the Margins and editor of Weimar Cinema, and the recipient of an NEH Public Scholar Award. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.