

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790279903321
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Titolo	Best Years : Going to the Movies, 1945-1946 // Mirella Jona Affron, Charles Affron, Nicole Solano
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Brunswick, NJ : , : Rutgers University Press, , [2009] ©2009
ISBN	1-280-49345-3 9786613588685 0-8135-4845-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (353 p.)
Disciplina	791.430973/09044
Soggetti	Motion pictures -- United States -- History -- 20th century Motion pictures -- United States United States -- In motion pictures Motion pictures - History - 20th century - United States Music, Dance, Drama & Film Film
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Standing Room Only -- 2. Over Here -- 3. Nation -- 4. Over There -- 5. Stars -- 6. Big Picture -- 7. Imports -- 8. Homecoming -- 9. Continuous Showings -- Appendix A: Boxoffice Rankings -- Appendix B: Star Rankings -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Americans flocked to the movies in 1945 and 1946—the center point of the three-decade heyday of the studio system's sound era. Why? Best Years is a panoramic study, shining light on this critical juncture in American history and the history of American cinema—the end of World War II (1945) and a year of unprecedented success in Hollywood's "Golden Age" (1946). This unique time, the last year of war and the first full year of peace, provides a rich blend of cinema genres and types—from the battlefield to the home front, the peace film to the woman's film, psychological drama, and the period's provocative new style, film noir. Best Years focuses on films that were famous,

infamous, forgotten, and unforgettable. Big budget A-films, road shows, and familiar series share the spotlight. From Bergman and Grant in *Notorious* to Abbott and Costello in *Lost in a Harem*, Charles Affron and Mirella Jona Affron examine why the bond between screen and viewer was perhaps never tighter. Paying special attention to the movie-going public in key cities--Atlanta, New York, Boston, Honolulu, and Chicago--this ambitious work takes us on a cinematic journey to recapture a magical time.

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