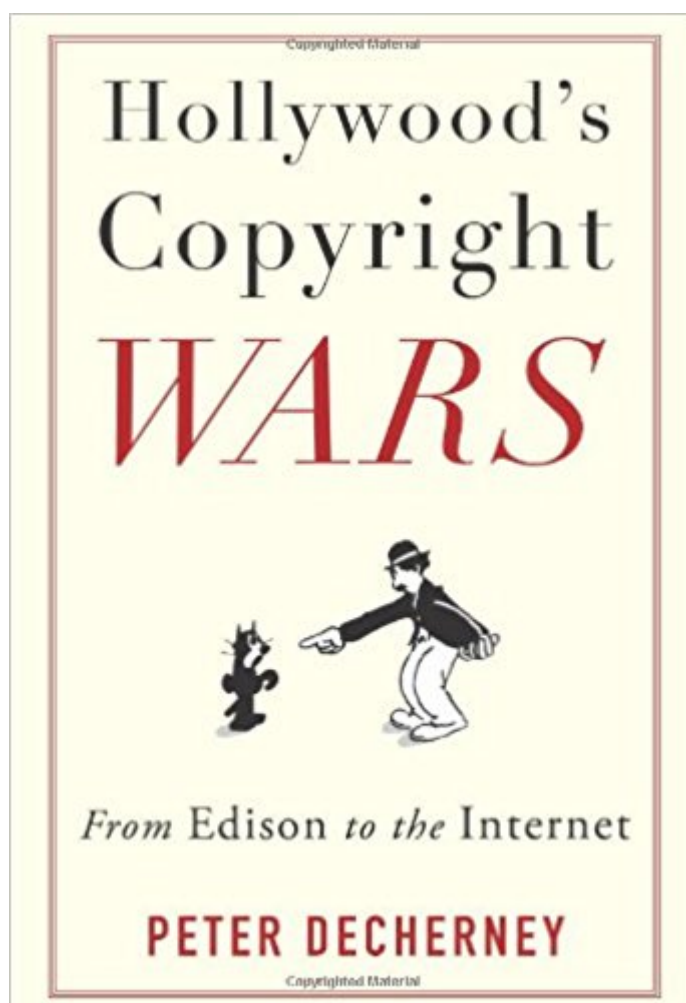


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Hollywood's Copyright Wars: From Edison To The Internet (Film And Culture Series)



Synopsis

Copyright law is important to every stage of media production and reception. It helps determine filmmakers' artistic decisions, Hollywood's corporate structure, and the varieties of media consumption. The rise of digital media and the internet has only expanded copyright's reach. Everyone from producers and scenewriters to amateur video makers, file sharers, and internet entrepreneurs has a stake in the history and future of piracy, copy protection, and the public domain. Beginning with Thomas Edison's aggressive copyright disputes and concluding with recent lawsuits against YouTube, *Hollywood's Copyright Wars* follows the struggle of the film, television, and digital media industries to influence and adapt to copyright law. Many of Hollywood's most valued treasures, from *Modern Times* (1936) to *Star Wars* (1977), cannot be fully understood without appreciating their legal controversies. Peter Decherney shows that the history of intellectual property in Hollywood has not always mirrored the evolution of the law. Many landmark decisions have barely changed the industry's behavior, while some quieter policies have had revolutionary effects. His most remarkable contributions uncover Hollywood's reliance on self-regulation. Rather than involve congress, judges, or juries in settling copyright disputes, studio heads and filmmakers have often kept such arguments "in house," turning to talent guilds and other groups for solutions. Whether the issue has been battling piracy in the 1900s, controlling the threat of home video, or managing modern amateur and noncommercial uses of protected content, much of Hollywood's engagement with the law has occurred offstage, in the larger theater of copyright. Decherney's unique history recounts these extralegal solutions and their impact on American media and culture.

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Customer Reviews

Both scholarly and readable, this will be of interest to movie history buffs and those who deal with copyright issues. (Library Journal)A splendid new study of the legal, technological, and aesthetic wrangling over motion picture copyright wrongs and rights, particularly timely. (Thomas Doherty Moving Image Source)Decherney's readable book provides a century of evidence about the complicated relationship between film, law, and power. (Rebecca Tushnet Jotwell: Cyberlaw)A groundbreaking study on what has been an understudied aspect of American film history. (Jan-Christopher Horak Archival Spaces: Memory, Images, History)Have you ever wondered if a book about copyright law could be as compelling as the Fifty Shades trilogy, but without BDSM scenes? Well, wonder no further. The answer, after reading Hollywood's Copyright Wars by Peter Decherney, is definitely yes. (Eleonora Rosati Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice)...an informative, well-written history of developments that have profoundly shaped American culture from Edison to YouTube. Highly recommended. (Choice)Enjoyable and engrossing... insightful.... Recommended for academic lawlibraries, undergraduate libraries, and public libraries. (Jacquelyn McCloud Law Library Journal)Any collection strong in Hollywood media issues needs this fine survey, which goes beyond the scenes to probe the decisions and actions that often take place outside the actual courtroom. (The Midwest Book Review)A richly detailed and compelling account that is a much-needed addition to the cultural and political history of copyright law. It is essential reading for media and communications scholars and students, but also highly recommended to anyone interested in copyright law. (Burcu Baykurt Media Culture and Society)Superb. (Film & History)An exemplary work. (Brian Real Film Quarterly)

Beginning with Thomas Edison's aggressive copyright disputes and concluding with recent lawsuits against YouTube, Hollywood's Copyright Wars follows the struggle of the film, television, and digital media industries to influence and adapt to copyright law. Though much of Hollywood's engagement with the law occurs offstage, in the larger theater of copyright, many of Hollywood's most valued treasures, from *Modern Times* (1936) to *Star Wars* (1977), cannot be fully understood without appreciating their legal controversies. Peter Decherney shows that the history of intellectual property in Hollywood has not always mirrored the evolution of the law and recounts these extralegal solutions and their impact on American media and culture.

I am an IP lawyer but was pleasantly surprised with clarity/ easy going writing style of this book. You do not need to be a copyright lawyer to understand the book or appreciate the excellent hard work put in by the Author. The book starts from early days of the Hollywood studio days and comes to the present day. To me, the most fun section to read was the first half of the book - because it talks of those old days and for which we do not see enough written on the internet or wiki. The early days and explanation on 'duping', practices of the old studios etc are described in a lucid style, with lots of case discussions and the book has some nice images as well.

Great book, very easy to understand yet thorough discussion of the topics!

I was forced to buy this book as part of a class I was taking in college. I read through the entire book and I can honestly say it is one of the most boring books I've ever read. What made it even worse was that after reading the whole book I didn't feel like I had learned anything substantial that would help me in future endeavors.

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