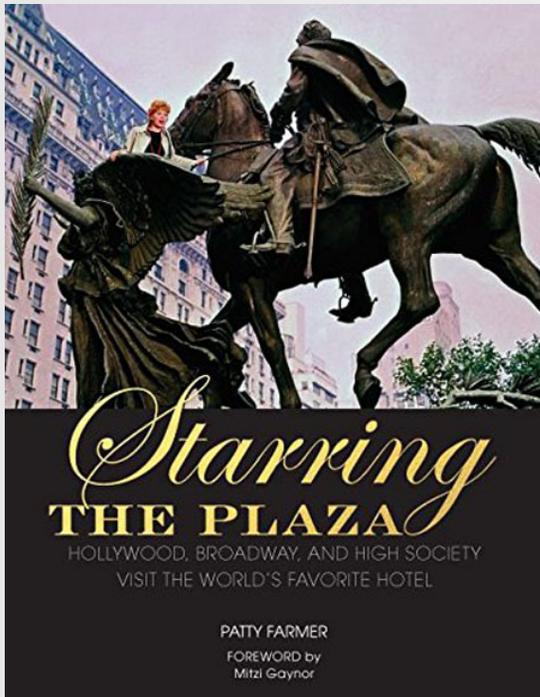




BOOK REVIEW: "STARRING THE PLAZA" BY ... Celebrating Films of the 1960s & 1970s

BOOK REVIEW: "STARRING THE PLAZA" BY PATTY FARMER; FOREWORD BY MITZI GAYNOR



BY LEE PFEIFFER

"Starring the Plaza" by Patty Farmer (Beaufort Books, Hardback, Illustrated, 130 pages ISBN#: 0825308461)

One of New York's biggest film stars isn't even a person...it's The Plaza, the legendary hotel on Central Park where numerous classic movies have been shot. Author Patty Farmer reverently captures the allure of the fabled place in her new book "Starring the Plaza", which pays tribute to one of Gotham's truly grand dames (she dates back to 1907). Cinematically, some celluloid gems stand out in our minds: Cary Grant being kidnapped there in *North By Northwest*, Streisand and Redford as briefly reunited former lovers outside the hotel in *The Way We Were* and Walter Matthau starring in numerous Neil Simon comedy skits in *Plaza Suite*. The wonderful anecdotes are accompanied by 180 photos, making this an irresistible addition to any movie lover's book collection.

Here is the official press release:

From the day it opened on October 1st 1907, the lavish 19-story French Renaissance building on the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Central Park South was simply the grandest hotel in the world. It's no wonder that from that day to this, The Plaza's lavish interiors and exteriors have remained sought-after settings for films, TV shows, commercials and music videos as well as home to the most significant social events of their day.

In "Starring The Plaza", a labor of love conceived and created by pop-cultural historian Patty Farmer, the hotel shines in a whole new light - a Klieg light, as it were. Page after page of moments captured from movies, plays, TV shows, parties, premieres, and press events form a new kind of chronicle of New York's favorite landmark. Readers will find all of their favorite Plaza-on-film moments here: Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*; to everybody's favorite tear-jerker, *The Way We Were*; to Neil Simon's uproarious *Plaza Suite* and *Barefoot in the Park*, the grand lobby in *Home Alone 2*, plus a few they might not have been aware of.

NORTH BY NORTHWEST

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock
Screenplay by Ernest Lehman
Released 1959

This classic Hitchcock thriller follows an innocent man as he is pursued across the country by anti-government agents who believe he is trying to foil their plot to steal national secrets.

RIGHT: Cary Grant and Alfred Hitchcock on location outside the Plaza.

BELOW: It may look like the Oak Room, but chalk that up to Hollywood sorcery: It's really just an expert recreation on the MGM lot. Has anyone ever looked better with a martini in front of him than Cary Grant?



There are even some Hollywood recreations of the place included—Plaza Pretenders—but it's clear that no amount of movie magic could ever beat the real thing. It was this combination of The Plaza's own special magic stirred with Hollywood's heady mix that has made the legendary Fifth Avenue address utterly timeless.

From Shirley MacLaine scaling the Pulitzer Fountain to a frizz-headed Barbra Streisand handing out political leaflets, The Plaza has co-starred with the best in the business. And from Liz Taylor to The Beatles to the showroom of the Persian Room, anyone who is *anyone* has stayed there, partied there, performed there and who-knows-what-else there.

"Starring The Plaza" is the first-ever visual celebration of the Plaza on stage, screen, and in society, and its author Patty Farmer has scoured the archives to show it off in all its glory. Legendary movie star Mitzi Gaynor provides the Foreword and discloses a few of her own adventures at the iconic hotel.

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