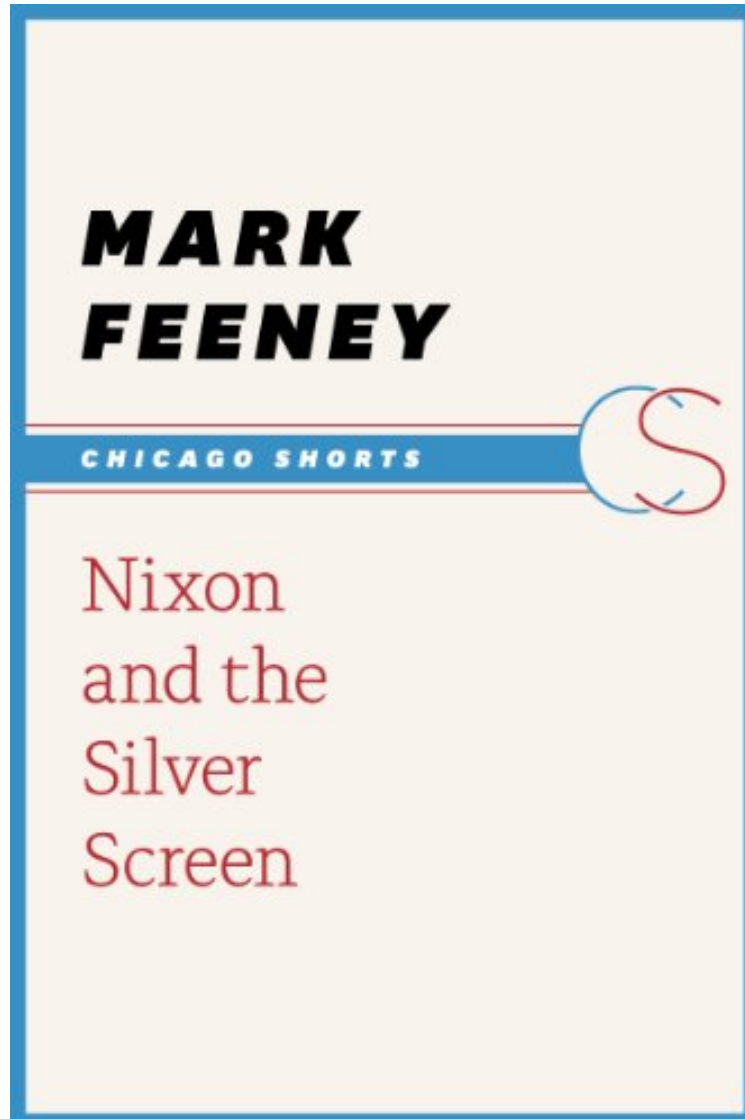


Nixon and the Silver Screen (Chicago Shorts)

Mark Feeney

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Mark Feeney : Nixon and the Silver Screen (Chicago Shorts) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nixon and the Silver Screen (Chicago Shorts):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Works as a standaloneBy Christopher (o.d.c.)University of Chicago Press has taken two chapters from NIXON AT THE MOVIES, and they work very well as a short standalone, focused specifically on the movies Nixon watched while President (he had 500 movie nights in six years) and, more briefly, Nixon's portrayal in various movies and TV shows.In an appendix, there is a complete list of the movies watched from 1/'69 to 8/'74.This is an interesting analysis of an admittedly minor aspect of recent history."... Most often he would watch with family members (though Pat would frequently slip out after the movie had started to go off and read) and

such friends as Bebe Rebozo and Robert Abplanalp. Working weekends at Camp David, he would have aides join him in watching. Less often, he would honor some luminary with inclusion in the presidential party, like Connally at that screening of *Around the World in 80 Days*, or J. Edgar Hoover and Clyde Tolson at an April 25, 1969, White House screening of *Where Eagles Dare*. "I think Feeney makes too much of the fact that while Hollywood was going in a darker direction (*Midnight Cowboy* is the only Best Picture winner which Nixon didn't watch), Nixon stuck with the classic "happy ending" movies. In fact, he wasn't the only one. But there is an interesting tidbit about Nixon's pride in his Hollywood endorsements:... While he acknowledges "that we must, of course, go for all the new stars," what predominates is his pride in the celebrities whose support he anticipates getting, "a pretty imposing list: Ruby Keeler, Gloria Swanson, Joan Crawford, Ginger Rogers, Bette Davis." Two years later, finding himself a prohibitive favorite to win, he could stick with the people he cared about. I fully subscribe to that interjected "[!]."

Richard Nixon and the film industry arrived in Southern California in the same year, 1913. In *Nixon and the Silver Screen*, Mark Feeney offers a new and often revelatory way of thinking about one of our most controversial presidents: by looking not just at Nixon's career—but Hollywood's. Nixon viewed more movies while in office than any other president, and Feeney argues that Nixon's story, both in politics and in his personal life, is nothing if not quintessentially American. Bearing in mind the events that shaped his presidency from 1969 to 1974, Feeney sees aspects of Nixon's character—and the nation's—refracted and reimagined in the more than 500 films Nixon watched during his tenure in the White House. The verdict? Nixon's legacy, for better or worse, is forever representative of the "Silver Age" in Hollywood, shaping and being shaped by that flickering silver screen.