

200+
GREAT
RESTAURANTS

Los Angeles

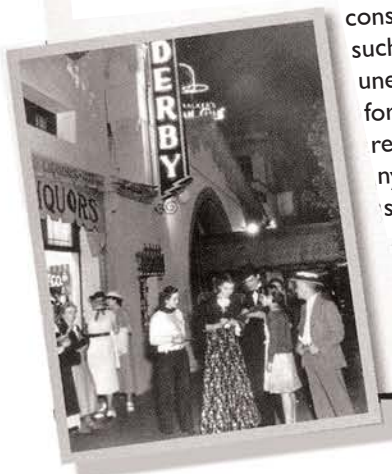
ARTIFACT

Without Tinsel

Old Hollywood through a pair of fresh eyes

There are more than 800 historical photographs, most them previously unpublished, that distinguish Gregory Paul Williams's extraordinary new book, *The Story of Hollywood: An Illustrated History* (BL Press LLC, 405 pages, \$49.95), from its coffee-table predecessors. It took Williams, who is also a movie puppeteer, and his father, Dino, nearly 15 years to cull the collection. The greasy spoon and the movie palace, the matinee idol basking at a premiere and the prostitute awaiting her citation, fantastical architecture under construction or laid waste by arson or the wrecking ball—such is the familiar landscape that emerges. So does the unexpected: Bela Lugosi's open casket at a local mortuary, for instance, or flashed of vibrant street life that until the recent revival seemed a distant memory. In the accompanying narrative, Williams—a lifelong Hollywood observer—sketches a story of glory and decline that even today's club owners and oft developers may not have the wherewithal to reverse. It's as much a cautionary talk as a celebratory one. —Ed Leibowitz

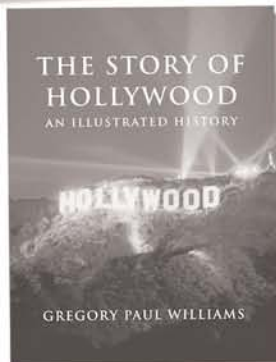
DERBY DAYS:
Actor Bob Cummings on Vine Street, 1936



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