The art of photoplay making

Freeburg Victor Oscar
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THE ART OF
PHOTOPLAY MAKING
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THE ART OF
PHOTOPLAY MAKING

BY
VICTOR OSCAR FREEBURG, PH.D.
Author of "Disguise Plots in Elizabethan Drama"

"The alterations of scenes, so it be quietly and without noise, are things of great beauty and pleasure; for they feed and relieve the eye."
FRANCIS BACON

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THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1918
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FOREWORD

You, O reader of the divine average, and I, often disgusted by the "movies," have sworn that we would never again go to see them. But, directly our solemn decision was made, we discovered that we could not keep our children or our grandparents away; so we had to break our vows and go again to see what our dear ones were seeing.

Now, since we cannot stop going to the motion picture theatres, let us find out as soon as possible which photoplays are ugly, and which are not so ugly; or, put it the other way, which are fair, and which are more beautiful. That means a little discussion. The "kiddies" and the old folks and you and I will all join in, and if we make the discussion loud enough and can decide what we really like and want, maybe the exhibitors, and the manufacturers, and the directors, and the scenario writers will pay attention.

In order to make my end of the discussion as loud as possible I have set it down in this book. Some of these ideas, I have, in fact, already expressed publicly in a series of lectures delivered at Columbia University between the autumn of 1915 and the spring of 1917, and in newspaper articles published during the same period in Sunday editions of The New York Times, The New York Sun, and The Morning Telegraph.

There are at least three other books which should be at hand and open. The first is Mr. Epes Winthrop