



# Bricf History

## HOLLYWOOD

(as told by its most famous resident)

Directed & Produced

bv

**Nate Barlow** 

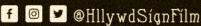
Music

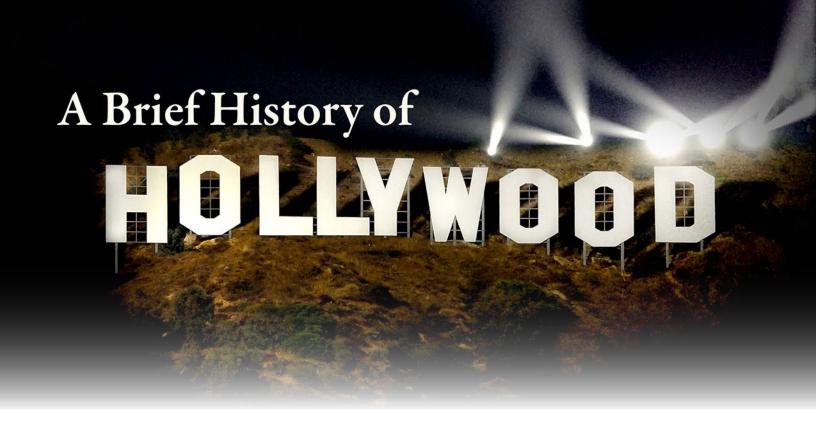
by

David James Nielsen

BriefHistoryOfHollywood.com







## FILM INFORMATION

#### **LOGLINE**

Two histories intertwined...

The histories of the Hollywood Sign
and of the Hollywood industry, visually interwoven.

#### **CONTACT INFO**

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Website: <u>briefhistoryofhollywood.com</u>
Trailer: <u>https://vimeo.com/451997737</u>
Social: @HllywdSignFilm **f** 

#### **DETAILS**

Genre: Documentary Running Time: 9:30 Aspect Ratio: Multiple Format: CGI, 24fps, 5.1 Color / Black & White Language: English

## **SYNOPSES**

#### **SYNOPSIS SHORT**

Long before it became a symbol of the movie industry, the then Hollywoodland Sign began its life as a blockbuster-sized advertisement for a housing development. Over the years the world took notice and the story of the Hollywood Sign — its ups & downs, modifications, decay, and reconstruction — is a reflection of the times, the story of a town, an industry, a country.

#### **SYNOPSIS LONG**

A billboard. Simply a billboard.

Long before it became the symbol of the movie industry, the Hollywood Sign had another, more prosaic purpose — an (admittedly blockbuster-sized) advertisement for a housing development.

Over the years, of course, the world took notice, and the status of the former Hollywoodland Sign evolved, as did the film industry that the soon-to-be Hollywood Sign came to represent.

Beyond the show business iconography, however, the story of the Hollywood Sign — its ups & downs, modifications, decay, and reconstruction — is a reflection of the times, the story of a town, an industry, a country.

A Brief History of Hollywood interweaves these two histories, visually and aurally overlaying the advances in Hollywood filmmaking over a simulated time lapse of the life and times of the Hollywood Sign, two stories perpetually and irrevocably intertwined.

Sometimes a sign is not simply a sign.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

I never thought I would make a documentary about the Hollywood Sign. Indeed, when I first moved to Los Angeles (and for a long time thereafter), the Hollywood Sign meant very little to me. Previously, while on a "scouting" trip ahead of my upcoming move, I had made the obligatory tourist trek to see the famous landmark and, having seen the Sign was done with it. To me the Sign was a sign and nothing more.

Flash forward to my first drive up Beachwood Canyon, deep within the housing development which the then Hollywoodland Sign was initially built to advertise. With my change in visual perspective came a change in mental perspective, for it was only as I approached the Sign that I first appreciated just how towering those nine letters actually are. Suddenly conscious of the Sign's overwhelming size and scope, I became enthralled with the landmark. I had always been a history buff, and I had already fallen in love with my adopted city's relatively short yet rapidly evolved history, so different from that of my native Connecticut. Naturally, I began researching the Sign.

I quickly learned that there is so much more to the story of the Hollywood Sign than most people realize. Viewing picture after picture, I felt compelled to capture that tale in the most visual way possible, not with anecdotes and talking heads, but literally recreating the history. For a compelling film, however, I knew that I would need something more.

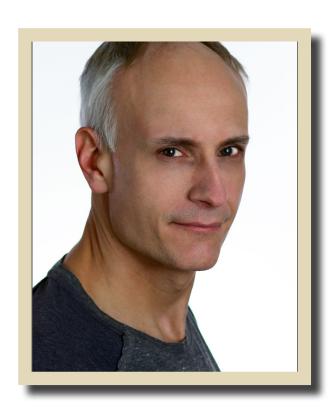
As well all know, the Hollywood Sign has come to symbolize Hollywood the industry and has done so for the vast majority of its life, regardless of its original advertising intent. What became apparent in my research is that the ups and downs of the Sign also mirror those of Hollywood the city, and thus the Sign as a symbol works on multiple levels. In that realization lay the answer to my filmmaking conundrum. What better way to tell the tale of the Sign than to tie it visually to the very industry it represents? I struck upon the idea of superimposing the technical evolution of Hollywood the business over the evolution of the Sign, without a doubt Hollywood's longest lived and most famous resident, the one that has overseen the word "Hollywood" in all its incarnations for over ninety years.

So many histories, rolled into one. Sometimes a Sign actually is more than a sign.

## BIOS

#### **DIRECTOR / PRODUCER - NATE BARLOW**

Nate graduated from Carnegie Mellon
University with a degree in Electrical and
Computer Engineering, but quickly rejected
an engineering career to be a filmmaker in
Los Angeles. He has since worn many hats in
entertainment, from director to writer, producer,
actor, and executive. Besides A Brief History
of Hollywood, he recently co-produced the
feature documentary The Water of Life about
the craft of scotch whisky. Previously he wrote
the Meghan Markle-starrer Random Encounters
and produced & directed Tales From Beyond
starring Adam West, which won several awards
on the film festival circuit.

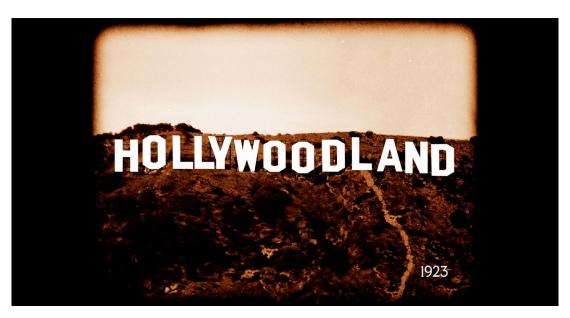


#### **COMPOSER - DAVID JAMES NIELSEN**

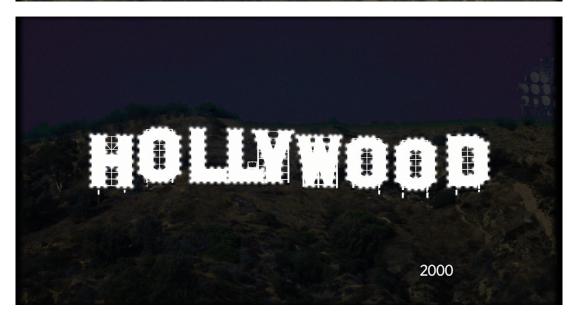
David is a graduate of the prestigious Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television program from the University of Southern California. From 1997 to 2003, David served as Composer-In-Residence for Pleiades Theatre/Vertigo Mystery Theatre, and composed the musical scores for approximately twenty-eight theatrical plays. In 2008, David won the Gold Medal of Artistic Excellence Award for his score to the film Man Vs. Woman, and the Bronze Medal for Excellence Award for his score to the film Tales From Beyond at the Park City Film Music Festival.



## PRODUCTION STILLS







## **END CREDITS**

## Written, Directed, and Produced by NATE BARLOW

Music Composed and Arranged by

DAVID JAMES NIELSEN

**Special Thanks** 

BETSY ISROELIT &
THE HOLLYWOOD SIGN TRUST

**Special Thanks** 

DEBRA BARLOW
ANNABELLE BARLOW
CLARA BARLOW
MURIEL BARLOW
JENNIFER NIELSEN
JIM & LINDA NIELSEN
JASON BIERFELD
NICHOLAS BRANDT
GREG SWARTZ