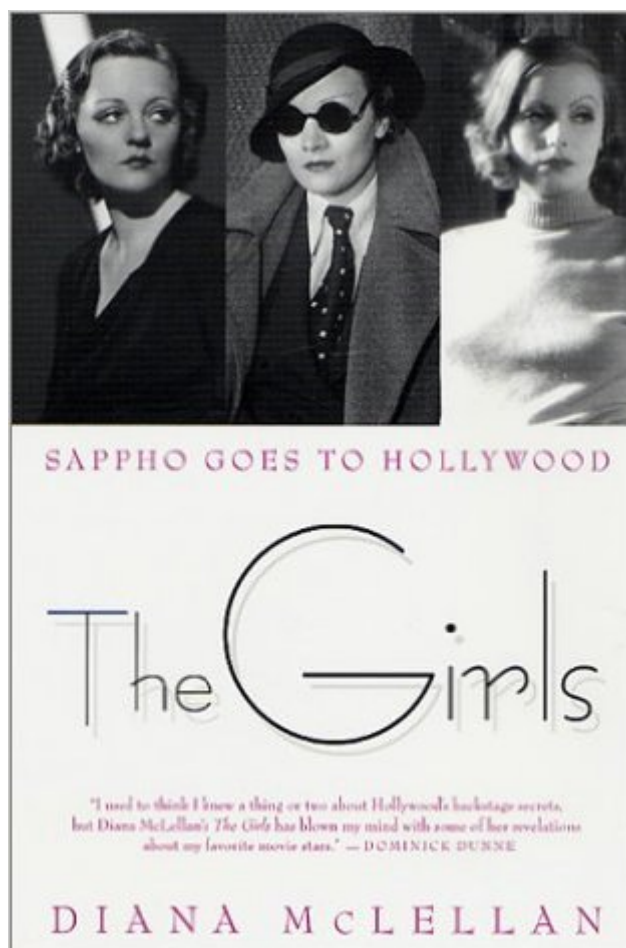


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# The Girls: Sappho Goes To Hollywood



## Synopsis

Diana McLellan reveals the complex and intimate connections that roiled behind the public personae of Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, Tallulah Bankhead, and the women who loved them. Private correspondence, long-secret FBI files, and troves of unpublished documents reveal a chain of lesbian affairs that moved from the theater world of New York, through the heights of chic society, to embed itself in the power structure of the movie business. *The Girls* serves up a rich stew of film, politics, sexuality, psychology, and stardom.

## Book Information

Paperback: 464 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; 1st edition (September 19, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312283202

ISBN-13: 978-0312283209

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1.3 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (62 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #405,927 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #465 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT](#) #625 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Gay & Lesbian](#) #1101 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > History & Criticism](#)

## Customer Reviews

I've never been a fan of biographies or gossip, biographies often seem too wooden and gossip too unreliable and salacious. But I read this book from cover to cover. Not only has Diana McLellan crafted a credible and well-researched account of the 'intimate' female community in Hollywood during the golden days of cinema, she has brought the encouragingly entertaining, colourful and often hilarious lives of women such as Tallulah Bankhead so to life that the era has interested me like never before. The author has a wonderful sense of humour, often letting our heroines' own words and situations speak for themselves. She says in the introduction that the book grew not so much from what was right in front of her, as it did from that which was absent. A lie is always told to hide the truth, making it an excellent departure point for investigation. The web of lies that covered the contents of this book is fascinating, and McLellan's talent lies in the way she has managed to weave the public front: the 1930's Hollywood we remember from films and fan magazines; the

notorious and infamous underground lesbian culture that was obviously evident if you knew the right people; and the intimately secret, private lives of the world's most famous women, hidden from not only the public, but even their friends and lovers. I think that this book succeeds, not simply because of the revelatory nature of much of the material: the alleged affair Marlene Dietrich and Greta Garbo had together in Berlin prior to their Hollywood careers; Dietrich's marriage to Otto Katz, communist and spy during World War II; the other roles Dietrich played during the war besides those of 'morale-builder' and entertainer, but because of the way McLellan has captured the zeitgeist of the era.

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