

# The Man Who Made the Jailhouse Rock: Alex Romero, Hollywood Choreographer

*Mark Knowles*

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**Mark Knowles : The Man Who Made the Jailhouse Rock: Alex Romero, Hollywood Choreographer** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Man Who Made the Jailhouse Rock: Alex Romero, Hollywood Choreographer:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inside Stories from the Golden Age of HollywoodBy Mark KnowlesAs the author of this book, I was hesitant to write a review of it myself, however, I have have been receiving

letters, cards, and phone calls from Alex Romero's family and friends and wanted to share just a few quotes from them. His nephew John said, "...the pictures alone are magnificent. And the copy is strong, enlightening and heartfelt...brilliant writing..." His niece Alix said, "What a wonderful book you created. I literally could not put it down. What a gift you gave us, and such rich, fun stories. When I finished it last night, I closed the book and laid it across my heart and cried." His daughter Judy read the book in Kauai on the same beach where her father worked on the choreography for "Pagan Love Song" with Esther Williams. She said, "I am so proud of you. What a lovely tribute to dad and our family. I have read it several times and refer to it constantly now that I have a reference point..." His daughter Melinda said, "Hope I told you how much I love the book. You did an amazing job sorting out all the stories. I remember you said you couldn't confirm that dad choreographed the Oscars and I want to tell you he did. I recall very plainly because I was shocked when I read the script and saw that all Bob Hope's supposed ad libs were actually in the script, typed right there on the page. Who knew??" 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating read! By Christine A. Reifer This is a fascinating look at the work of Alex Romero. The author had a unique perspective because he had been able to interview Romero to get first-hand accounts of his experiences. In a way, Romero finally gets credit for all the amazing choreography he did through this book. I look forward to reading Mark Knowles other books. Well done! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Definitely a MUST for any Musical Theater/Movie lover! By Marka D. Rodgers I absolutely love the personal way in which Mr. Knowles tells Mr. Romero's story, or should I say stories! This was an enjoyable and "easy" read. Easy in that it was captivating, as if I was there and part of this wonderful history! Definitely a MUST for any Musical Theater/Movie lover!

Choreographer Alex Romero created Jailhouse Rock, the iconic Elvis Presley production number, but never received screen credit for his contribution. This book tells his story. The son of a Mexican general, Romero escaped the Mexican Revolution, joined his family's vaudeville dance act and became a dancer in Hollywood. Part of Jack Cole's exclusive Columbia dance troupe, he was eventually hired as a staff assistant at MGM, where he worked on Take Me Out to the Ballgame, American in Paris, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, and On the Town, among many others. When Romero transitioned into full-time choreography, he created the dances for numerous films, including Love Me or Leave Me, I'll Cry Tomorrow, Tom Thumb, Whatever Happened to Baby Jane, and three additional movies for Elvis. Known for his inventive style and creative use of props, Romero was instrumental in bringing rock and roll to the screen. This biography includes first-person accounts of his collaborations with Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, and others.

"Recommended"--Examiner.com. About the Author Mark Knowles, choreographer of more than 300 theatrical productions, is on the faculty of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles, California.