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Horror, The Film Reader (In Focus: Routledge Film Readers)



Synopsis

Horror, The Film Reader brings together key articles to provide a comprehensive resource for students of horror cinema. Mark Jancovich's introduction traces the development of horror film from The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari to The Blair Witch Project, and outlines the main critical debates. Combining classic and recent articles, each section explores a central issue of horror film, and features an editor's introduction outlining the context of debates.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most of the time, if we like something, we don't question it, we just enjoy it. Plenty of people enjoy horror films, so much so that it has remained a successful genre since the beginning of sound films (with the possible exception of the post WWII years when science fiction took over, albeit with horror trappings). Horror Film Reader tries to explain why we enjoy horror. Horror Film Reader is an anthology of essays about horror movies edited by Alain Silver and James Ursini, two big writers on genre films (who also occasionally provide DVD commentaries). The first section of the book features "classic" essays on the subject, written from the 1950s to the '70s. The second part has more recent works from around 1980 to 2000. As might be expected in an anthology of this sort, the articles have a variety of lengths, topics and quality. Some focus on major horror films, others on minor ones or more "trashy" horror, some on single movies, some on whole slews of them. Some have affection for the genre, others are more critical, and some have errors in plot descriptions that undermine their effectiveness. Overall, however, this is a fun read, but only if you're well-versed in

horror movies. If your experience is limited to only recent and very well-known works, you won't get as much out of this. There are, for example chapters on Mario Bava and Jess Franco, neither of whom are very well-known to modern movie-goers, though horror fans are more familiar with them. If you are a fan of the genre and its history, however, this book will provide some interesting insights.

I had to read this for an online Masters course, so the quality and info are verified by the professor's selection of it. Still, while this covers a lot of territory, in detail, it is not a fanboy (or fangirl) read. This is serious academia. If you are into that - or need that for research - this is your go-to book.

I really am enjoying this work. The essays are well written, clear, and the perfect read for any one looking to learn about, or hear new perspectives on, the horror genre. The array of different topics covered ensures that there is definitely something for everyone. If you enjoy reading about film, this book will not disappoint.

My daughter is in college and she's taking a Horror Film class...how cool is that? This is the class text book---that's even cooler, right? :P

Scholarly reviews of the history of the horror film. Contains multiple stills from classic to modern (A whole chapter on "The Fly"). Question the point in some cases: often the stills don't match the subject matter. The articles are scholarly, but also interesting and intelligent, and a good read for the horror fan. Recommended.

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