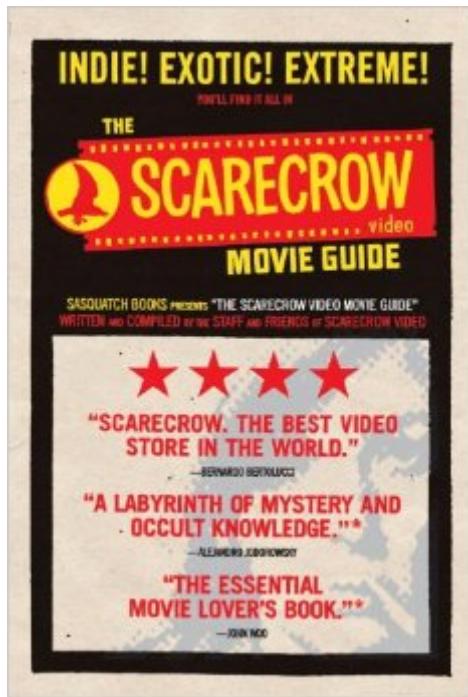


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The Scarecrow Video Movie Guide



Synopsis

Scarecrow is to video stores as The Elliott Bay Book Co. is to bookstores: independent, iconoclastic, and obsessed. With more than 60,000 titles in a single outlet, it's a paradise frequented by serious movie lovers and staffed by movie freaks. Loaded with a deep appreciation and understanding of movies, these fanatics have assembled one of the most eclectic movie lists to date. This is a unique list of essential, cool, funny, laughable, important, fluffy, outrageous, you-just-gotta-see videos for anyone interested in the art (both high and low) of moviemaking. This book easily satisfies every reader's personal penchant. Includes the best of the best and the worst of the worst in biker flicks, documentaries, foreign films, psychotronics, action, experimental, kids, film noir, murder mysteries, gay and lesbian, music, anime, and more.

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Customer Reviews

The Greatest Video Store in the World has released THE SCARECROW VIDEO MOVIE GUIDE. The Scarecrow Video Store is a true mecca for movie lovers located in Seattle Washington's University District. This 808 page celebration of film is written by the friends and workers of the store. They bring to the concept of Movie Guide Books exactly what they bring to Video Store--obsessive passionate iconoclastic eclecticism. After an introduction the book starts with a section on 14 Chapters categorize the movies in a unique way. In Chapter 1: DIRECTORS you'll find movies listed according to the last names of the fine folks who directed them. So this section starts out with 3 movies by drive in trash maestro, Al Adamson: Black Heat, Mean Mother and Satan's Sadists. No, they don't include all of Adamson's film (and skip over perhaps his best known Dracula

Versus Frankenstein) but the idea seems to be to travel down roads not as well traveled as other movie guidebooks. So what movies do they include of Woody and Altman and Richard Lester and Herschell Gordon Lewis? Who did they leave out of the director's section that they should have in there (Doris Wishman, Richard Rush, Ted V. Mikels perhaps?) Then there's 13 more chapters and you get nearly 4,000 capsule reviews from a variety of perspectives and some mini-essays on diverse filmmakers from Anthony Mann, and Les Blanc to Silent Film-maker Nell Shipman. There's bonus lists like 'Movies We Wish Were on DVD', 'The Most Depressing Movies Ever Made' and 'Best Musical Documentaries Ever Made.' If you're confused by how this book is organized there are 3 indexes that will help sort it out for you. Also readable is what amounts to the Scarecrow Video Store story which opens the book.

This conversation-starting guide assumes the reader is passionate about movie-going and fascinated by the relationships between films. If you're an adventuresome cinema buff who wants to discover brilliant or thought-provoking films in an organic way, as you might make connections while talking to a knowledgeable friend or a friendly clerk at Seattle's Scarecrow Video, this book can help. If, on the other hand, you have no idea what an auteur is and are satisfied by the choices at Blockbuster or Red Box, the guide will probably strike you as needlessly obscure and preposterously elitist. Full of opinionated short reviews written by roughly 50 Scarecrow employees and customers, some of whom care more about the art of cinema than about good writing, it does not pretend to be definitive or comprehensive. Indeed, since the store stocks more than 100,000 titles, many of them rare, obscure, out of print, or never available on DVD, many thousands of worthy films had to be omitted. It's never been updated, and there are no ratings of any kind, so if you're hoping to find recent releases or one to five stars at each entry, look elsewhere. Most of the videos profiled are either excellent or intriguing, but the authors occasionally recommend unmitigated dreck or praise arcane tripe that exists solely to shock. They can be, as the blurb on the back cover states, "laughable, important, fluffy, gory, illuminating, so-bad-it's-good videos." It goes without saying that a reviewer's tastes will not always match yours, so you need to be discerning when choosing from among nearly 4,000 titles spread over 800 pages. And note that a number of middlebrow blockbusters are given no mention whatsoever; you won't find "Terms of Endearment" here.

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