Projected Fears Horror Films And American Culture

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the second edition of movies and american society is a comprehensive collection of essays and primary documents that explore the ways in which movies have changed and been changed by american society from 1905 to the present each chapter includes an introduction discussion questions an essay examining the issues of the period primary documents and a list of further reading and screenings includes a new chapter on american film in the age of terror and new essays for chapter 9 race violence and film and chapter 13 hollywood goes global as well as updated reading and screenings sections discusses all the major periods in american film history from the first nickelodeons to the wars in iraq and afghanistan and the globalization of hollywood demonstrates the unique influence of movies on all aspects of american culture from ideology politics and gender to class war and race relations engaging and accessible for students with jargon free essays and primary documents that show social practices and controversies as well as the fun and cultural influence of movies and movie going

a historian s view of the relationship between american history and the american film industry this book is a witty and perceptive account of hollywood and its films in the years from the outbreak of the second world war in europe to the end of the war in korea it describes how film makers and their industry were shaped by and responded to the strong political and social stimuli of wartime america the author examines the recurring question of whether the movies were a reflection of the society in which they were produced or whether by virtue of their undeniable propaganda power the films shaped that society combining evidence from literary visual and oral sources he covers a wide range of movies emphasising in particular casablanca mrs miniver the best years of our lives and since you went away in addition to placing the films in a social and political context the author shows that hollywood is a perfect example of the bone headed way in which people behave when they are dealing with large amounts of money and power enjoyably nostalgic this book will appeal to film enthusiasts as well as those interested in war and its effect on society

the challenge of making the great american historical film has attracted some of our finest talents d w griffith john ford robert altman francis ford coppola martin scorsese oliver stone spike lee from the earliest flickering images of the spirit of 76 1905 through nixon america on film subtly and entertainingly examines hollywood s filming of american history including biographies

among the many films considered some omissions seem surprising the birth of a nation and gone with the wind for example since they are based on fiction but the iron horse the beginning or the end the jackie robinson story patton quiz show lenny malcolm x apollo 13 and literally hundreds of others are all here through these many movies we see the interrelationships between image and substance illusion and reality racism and democracy and cynicism and idealism which form america s unique national identity

fully revised updated and extended this compilation of interpretive essays and primary documents teaches students to read films as cultural artifacts within the contexts of actual past events a new edition of this classic textbook which ties movies into the broader narrative of us and film history ten new articles which consider recently released films as well as issues of gender and ethnicity well organized within a chronological framework with thematic treatments to provide a valuable resource for students of the history of american film fourth edition includes completely new images throughout

this vastly readable and richly illustrated volume examines film as art form technological innovation big business and cultural bellwether it takes in stars from douglas fairbanks to sly stallone auteurs from d w griffith to martin scorsese and spike lee and genres from the screwball comedy of the 1930s to the hard body movies of the 1980s to the independent films of the 1990s combining panoramic sweep with detailed commentaries on hundreds of individual films movie made america is a must for any motion picture enthusiast

fully revised updated and extended the fifth edition of hollywood's america provides an important compilation of interpretive essays and primary documents that allows students to read films as cultural artifacts within the contexts of actual past events a new edition of this classic textbook which ties movies into the broader narrative of us and film history this fifth edition contains nine new chapters with a greater overall emphasis on recent film history and new primary source documents which are unavailable online entries range from the first experiments with motion pictures all the way to the present day well organized within a chronological framework with thematic treatments to provide a valuable resource for students of the history of american film

this book introduces the reader to basic issues related to the phenomenon of american cinema it looks at american film history

from the 1890s through the spring of 2020 but it does not always explore this history in a purely chronological way in fact it is not strictly speaking a history rather it is a cultural history which focuses more on topics and issues than on what happened when it begins with a profile of classical hollywood cinema as a unique economic industrial aesthetic and cultural institution it considers the experience of moviegoing the nature of hollywood storytelling and the roles played by the studio system the star system and film genres in the creation of a body of work that functions not only as entertainment but as a portrait of the relationship between an american national identity and an industrialized mass culture that has slowly evolved over the past century this book assumes that the reader has little or no formal training in film history theory or aesthetics it presents fairly basic concepts in such a way as to encourage discussion not so much of individual films but of films in general for this reason the book concentrates on large groupings of films on genres topics and periods of film history this textbook differs from the more traditional histories of the cinema for certain specific and important reasons over the past fifty years the field of film study has undergone a tremendous transformation this change has been spearheaded by the work of a new generation of scholars who challenge the traditional way in which film history has been written and taught introduction to film courses that fifty years ago taught film as art drew heavily upon the approaches of new criticism contemporary film courses now teach film not only as art but also as film and they attempt to situate film as an art form within a larger industrial economic social and cultural context they rely heavily on cultural studies new historicism psychoanalysis and other contemporary critical disciplines film history texts have changed over the years as well in the past histories consisted of simple chronological accounts of who did what and what happened when and of the stories of great men sic and their achievements and of straightforward accounts of the influence of technology and economics on the course of a history that unfolds in a linear fashion up to the present more recently film scholars have begun to rewrite these traditional histories creating what thomas elsaesser refers to as the new film history at its best this history is driven by a sophisticated theoretically informed revisionism it simply refuses to accept the easy answers to basic historical questions that had been offered up by past historians with the initial publication of american cinema american culture in 1994 the methods and discoveries of the new film history were applied to an introductory level text surveying the history of the american cinema

although films rarely act as mirror reflections of everyday reality they are nevertheless powerful cultural expressions of the dreams

and desires of the american public this work provides a complete post world war ii survey of american cinema and its often complex and contradictory values

this is an original investigation of how movies have reflected and helped to shape the values of a generation from all the president s men to wall street us films of the 1970s and 80s were a kaleidoscope of shifting values and contrasting moral viewpoints knowing that movies mirror the way we think we are or would like to be o brien focuses on the key values or their absence found in films from this period in order to see more clearly what americans really cherished in life and how these values have evolved or changed comprehensive and thought provoking this book addresses how and why movies glamorized and portrayed certain professions the changing role of women the targeting of religion for satire the addressing of environmental issues and film s representation of and engagement with history

now thoroughly revised and updated the book discusses recent breakthroughs in media technology including such exciting advances as video discs and cassettes two way television satellites cable and much more

while the myth of a classless america endures in the american dream the very stratification that it denies unfairly affects the majority of americans study after study shows that it s increasingly difficult for working class people to achieve upward mobility in the us so how does the american dream continue to thrive j emmett winn shows us that the american dream s continued glorification in contemporary hollywood cinema should not be ignored the book explicates three major themes surrounding the american dream in contemporary hollywood cinema and relates those findings to the united states social and cultural changes in the last 25 years through his thoughtful analysis of films as diverse as working girl titanic pretty woman flashdance the firm good will hunting saturday night fever wall street and many others winn shows that contemporary hollywood is very much in the business of keeping the dream alive bloomsbury publishing

hollywood has a growing fascination with america s past this book offers an analysis of how and why contemporary hollywood films have sought to mediate american history it considers whether or how far contemporary films have begun to unravel the

unifying myths of earlier films and periods

billy wilder american film realist closely examines a selection of wilder s films from 1941 through 1981 these films show wilder at his best as a hardworking hollywood craftsman and an astute commentator on the american century book jacket

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