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The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Science Fiction



Synopsis

Since the initial publication of the first three groundbreaking volumes -- Horror, Science Fiction, and The Western -- The Overlook Film Encyclopedia series has been deemed the most authoritative, stylish, and compulsively readable film reference series ever. In The Gangster Film, series editor Phil Hardy has created yet again a landmark in film reference. Included in this lavish volume are critical entries on more than 1,500 gangster films, complete with plot synopses and credits, and 650 black and white photographs to capture the look of this exciting genre. Arranged chronologically, The Gangster Film offers deliciously opinionated and detailed descriptions, statistical information, credits and trivia from early classics such as Public Enemy, Key Largo, Dragnet, and On the Waterfront to contemporary blockbusters such as The Grifters, Chinatown, The Godfather, and Pulp Fiction. Essential, authoritative, and entertaining, The Gangster Film is the guide for serious students of film, film buffs, and home viewers.

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Customer Reviews

I bought an earlier edition of this book about 20 years ago in a bookstore (before the Internet) and read it until the binding broke and the pages came apart. I recently re-discovered this fantastic book and it was like finding a long lost friend. I checked to make sure what errors I found in the first edition were fixed, and indeed they were. Now, I'm reading it again, and I have to say I couldn't be happier with it. Fantastic reviews, great pictures. If you like historical sci-fi (thru the mid-90's) this

book is for you. With the price of many of these films so affordable now on DVD, this is a great resource. There is nothing not to like about this book.

Like the *The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Horror*, this is an excellent resource for worldwide sci-fi films. However, it only covers films up to the mid-90s. There is also some confusion over what is horror vs. what is sci-fi, for example, *Night of the Living Dead* is listed in this book, not *Horror*, because of the whole Venus probe radiation theory voiced in a newscast within that film. This radiation theory was discarded in later *Dead* films, so *Dawn of the Dead* and *Day of the Dead* (the originals, not the remakes), are listed in the *Horror Encyclopedia*. I found this very annoying, but aside from that and a few other films I thought belonged in *Horror*, this book really nails it. Cast and crew, run times, plot summaries, critical reviews (a bit dry and on the academic side, but still interesting)... it's like having your own personal IMDB on your bookshelf, which this book and its companion volumes (*Horror*, *Western*, *Gangster*, *Film Noir*) were in those heady days before the internet. Like all the other *Overlook Film Encyclopedias*, this is definitely a beautiful, high quality volume that makes a perfect gift for any sci-fi fan.

This great encyclopedia was published in 1995. The *Overlook Film Encyclopedias* have been great books for film fans. Hundreds of science fiction films from 1895 to 1989 are examined (some films from the early '90's also make the list). Includes *Metropolis*, *Things to Come*, *Star Wars*, *E.T.*, and many others. The real benefit is that this is one of few film books to extensively review sci-fi films from 1970 to the early '90's. Although this review book is slightly dated, the price has come down and provides good value for \$25. The *Overlook Sci-Fi Encyclopedia* is much more affordable than *The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Horror* which is recommended for horror freaks. Both books have managed to hold their value well.

The Early Years: Innocent Beginnings (1895-1919)
The 20's: Dark Visions and Brash Adventure
The 30's: Mad Scientists and Comic Book Heroes
The 40's: Science Fiction Eclipsed
The 50's: Science Fiction Reborn
The 60's: Science Fiction Respectable
The 70's: Big Budgets and Big Bucks
The 80's: Science Fiction Triumphant

Buy this book.

A bit out of date now (I have the second edition from 1991), but since the golden age of science fiction is already behind us, it's not that important. This is a lavishly illustrated chronological look at the sci-fi film genre, with lots of foreign and silent films included. The earliest films listed are from 1895 (French and British productions). The reviews are well-written. There is, of course, some overlap with the horror as the two genres are often impossible to separate.

this book is not for just looking up some facts on a movie you've recently seen. It's something you will read cover to cover like a collection of short stories. The entries tell you what you'd expect from an encyclopedia, but it also gives you the story of each film that is very balanced. I have kept this book by my bedside for several years now and frequently pick it up and read a few of the stories before going to bed. I'm on my 3rd time through and none of it is getting old.

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