

**Cinema at the Margins***Wheeler Winston Dixon***Pub Date:** December 2013**Binding:** Hardback**Price:** £60 / \$99**ISBN:** 9780857281869**Extent:** 238 pages**Size:** 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6**Illustrations:** 15 b+w illustrations**Category:** PERFORMING ARTS

/ Film & Video / History & Criticism

BISAC code: PER004030**BIC code:** APFA**Rights Held:** World*This title is also available as an ebook***Description**

A much-needed analysis of the forgotten films and filmmakers of the past that are being marginalized and pushed aside by the current loss of historical perspective in film.

"Few have explored the cinematic margins as thoroughly as Wheeler Winston Dixon, and few match his talent for finding and celebrating the secret glories of overlooked, undervalued films. Gliding from Peter Bogdanovich to Myra Breckinridge by way of Robert Bresson, this is an exciting and ever-surprising collection." —David Sterritt, Columbia University and Chair, National Society of Film Critics

"The marginalization of important films is a constant threat in the age of the New Hollywood blockbuster, with commercial cinema reduced to a cheap thrill and the audience conceived as adolescents. Dixon's thoughtful remarks on neglected films testify not only to his own fine sensibility, but to the urgency of the concerns he sets before us." —Christopher Sharrett, Seton Hall University

More and more, just a few canonical classics, such as Michael Curtiz's *Casablanca* (1942) or Victor Fleming's *Gone With The Wind* (1939), are representing the entire output of an era to a new generation that knows little of the past, and is encouraged by popular media to live only in the eternal present. What will happen to the rest of the films that enchanted, informed and transported audiences in the 1930s, 1940s, and even as recently as the 1960s?

For the most part, these films will be forgotten, and their makers with them. Wheeler Winston Dixon argues that even obvious historical markers such as Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* (1960) represent shockingly unknown territory for the majority of today's younger viewers; and yet once exposed to these films, they are enthralled by them. In the 1980s and 1990s, the more adventurous video stores served a vital function as annals of classic cinema. Today, those stores are gone and the days of this kind of browsing are over.

This collection of essays aims to highlight some of the lesser-known films of the past – the titles that are being pushed aside and forgotten in today's oversaturation of the present. The work is divided into four sections, rehabilitating the films and filmmakers who have created some of the most memorable phantom visions of the past century, but who, for whatever reason, have not successfully made the jump into the contemporary consciousness.

Readership: This book will be of interest to students and researchers of film culture and history, as well as to the general public.

Contents

Acknowledgments; Introduction; PART I. GENRE: 1. The Future Catches Up with the Past: Peter Bogdanovich's "Targets"; 2. Surrealism and Sudden Death in the Films of Lucio Fulci; 3. "Flash Gordon" and the 1930s and '40s Science Fiction Serial; 4. Just the Facts, Man: The Complicated Genesis of Television's *Dragnet*; 5. The Disquieting Aura of Fabián Bielinsky; PART II. HISTORY: 6. Fast Worker: The Films of Sam Newfield; 7. The Power of Resistance: "Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne"; 8. Beyond Characterization: Performance in 1960s Experimental Cinema; 9. Vanishing Point: The Last Days of Film; PART III. INTERVIEWS: 10. "Let the Sleepers Sleep and the Haters Hate": An Interview with Dale "Rage" Resteghini; 11. "Margin Call": An Interview with J. C. Chandor; 12. "All My Films Are Personal": An Interview with Pat Jackson; 13. Working Within the System: An Interview with Gerry O'Hara; 14. Andrew V. McLaglen: Last of the Hollywood Professionals; 15. Pop Star, Director, Actor: An Interview with Michael Sarne; Works Cited and Consulted; About the Author; Index

About the Author

Wheeler Winston Dixon is the James Ryan Professor of Film Studies and coordinator of the Film Studies Program at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and editor-in-chief, with Gwendolyn Audrey Foster, of the *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*.

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