

Recent Books on Cinema Studies – April 2009

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Hindi Cinema : An Insider's View / Anil Saari
New Delhi : Oxford University Press, 2009
xx, 222 p.: 23 cm
9780195695847, 0195695844
\$ 12.50

[Journalist, poet, and dramatist, Anil saari was one of the earlist and best-known film critics in India. Saari began writing on the nature and popularity of Hindi cinema more than thirty years ago, much before this cinematic genre gained credibility in academic circles.]

Under Her Spell : Roberto Rossellini in India / Dileep Padgaonkar
New Delhi : Penguin Books India, 2008
x, 263 p.; 22 cm.
Includes Filmography and Bibliography, and Index.
978-06-7008-154-7
\$ 13.75

[When he came to India in December 1956 Robert Rosellini was an internationally renowned figure. Highly acclaimed as a director of Italian neo – realist films and married to Hollywood legend Ingrid Bergman his was an ebullient yet intense personality that combined a fondness for flashy cars and lovely women with a passionately serious commitment to exploring the human condition and portraying it with unflinching and unvarnished honesty.]

Seeing is Believing : Selected Writings on Cinema / Chidananda Das Gupta
New Delhi : Penguin Books India, 2008
viii, 295 p.; 22 cm.
Includes Index.
978-06-7008-206-3
\$ 12.50

[Seeing is Believing brings together some of Chidananda Das Gupta's finest writings on the subject of cinema over the last sixty years. In these highly informed and thought provoking essays he addresses diverse themes like the origins and history of the parallel cinema in our country; the national film awards; the unique interface between politics and film in India ; the portrayal of women sex and violence in our films and the quintessentially Indian contribution to movies – the song.]

2nd International Children's film Festival Bangladesh January 24-30, 2009 / Monis Rafiq (Ed)
Dhaka: Children's Film Society Bangladesh, 2009
143p,; 27cm
\$ 15.00

Yuen Woo Ping's Wing Chun / Sasha Vojkovic
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009
xii. 142p,; 19cm
ISBN-13; 9789622099678
\$ 17.95

Yuen Woo Ping's kung fu comedy based on the legendary female character Wing Chun is a landmark of action choreography and heroic womanhood in Chinese cinema. This book explores Wing Chun's narrative representation of femininity and the martial arts genre, its history, traditions and cultural influences. While studio-made Hong Kong genre cinema has stressed action over narrative, Wing Chun offers a more egalitarian gender imaginary rooted in Daoist and Buddhist thought. The book provides new insights on the non-linear cinematic storytelling of the film. This is the first in-depth study of the work of Yuen Woo Ping, the well-known Hong Kong film director and action choreographer who achieved international recognition as an action as the Matrix; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; and Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill Volumes 1 & 2

John Woo's The Killer / Kenneth E Hall
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009
xiv. 125p,; 19cm
ISBN-13: 9789622099562
\$ 17.95

A classic tale of loyalty and bloody betrayal, John Woo's The Killer (1989) was centrally important to the growth of Hong Kong cinema in the 1980s and 1990s. It helped launch the international stardom of Woo and lead actor Chow Yun-fat, who plays a disillusioned hitman taking his fatal final assignment to help a lounge singer he accidentally blinded. Illustrating the film's place in the chivalric tradition of Chinese and Hong Kong cinema, where cops and noble villains sometimes join forces in defense of traditional virtues and personal honor, Kenneth Hall documents the strong influence of Woo's mentor Chang Cheh as well as Jean-Pierre Melville and other film noir pioneers. Hall also analyzes the film's influence on other directors, including Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino.

Jin Yan: The Rudolph Valentino of Shanghai (DVD included) / Richard J Meyer
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009
xxii. 189p,; 19cm
ISBN-13: 9789622095861
\$ 29.95

Jin Yan: The Rudolph Valentino of Shanghai tells the remarkable story of the "Emperor of Film," who dominated the golden age of Chinese silent movies. Jin Yan achieved his greatest stardom in the 1930s, when women literally threw themselves at his feet. Married first to the Shanghai actress Wang Renmei, his movie roles with "the Goddess" Ruan Ling-yu spurred public demand for more of the together in films made by the leading studio, Lianhua. It was Jin who made Ruan aware of film's awesome power to

portray social problems while evading the censors with melodramatic soap opera formats.

Johnnie To Kei-Fung's PTU / Michael Ingham
Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009
xii. 149p,; 19cm
ISBN-13: 9789622099197
\$ 17.95

PTU is an underappreciated noir masterpiece by one of Hong Kong's most prolific and commercially successful directors. Johnnie To Kei-fung has been called "the poet of post-1997 and the economic savior of the Hong Kong film industry" for an extraordinary range of films produced during some of Hong Kong cinema's most difficult years. While many of To's celebrated films such as Election, Exiled and the Mission feature themes of criminal glory and revenge, PTU centres on the ethical dilemmas, personal dramas and stoic teamwork in the elite Police Tactical Unit.

The Hong Kong – Guangdong Film Connection / Wong Ain-ling (Ed)
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Film Archive, 2005
342p,; 27cm
ISBN-13: 9789628050338
\$ 30.00

Li Han-Hsiang, Storyteller / Wong Ain-ling (Ed)
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Film Archive, 2007
309p,; 27cm
ISBN-13: 9789628050413
\$ 35.00

@Location / Winnie Fu (Ed)
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Film Archive, 2006
187p,; 18 by 24cm
ISBN-13: 9789628050369
\$ 35.00

Zhu Shilin: A Filmmaker of his Times / Wong Ain-ling (Ed)
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Film Archive, 2008
253p,; 27cm
ISBN-13: 9789628050468
\$ 35.00

Chang Cheh: A Memoir / Chang Cheh
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Film Archive, 2004
255p,; 24cm
ISBN-13: 9789628050260
\$ 24.00

The Swordsman and His Jiang Hu: Tsui Hark and Hong Kong Film / Sam Ho & Ho Wai-leng (Eds)
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Film Archive, 2002
xiv. 265p,; 27cm
ISBN-13: 9789628050154

\$ 26.00

The Shaw Screen: A Preliminary Study / Wong Ain-ling (Ed)
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Film Archive, 2003
444p,; 27cm
ISBN-13: 9789628050215
\$ 40.00

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