

Recent Cinema Studies - December 2023

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Through The Lens, Brightly: Women In Cinema, Women at Work / Shoma A. Chatterji

Primus Books, Delhi 2023
xii, 306p.; 23 cm.
Bibliography Includes Index.
9789355727176
\$ 37.50 / HB
650 gm.

Does the gender of a director affect your perception of a film or dictate whether or not you watch a certain movie? The Indian film industry, the biggest in the world in terms of quantity, language and culture, produces close to a thousand films a year. Yet, the presence of women in the directorial chair still appears to be a drop in the widening ocean of filmmakers in the country. Very little is known about women directors who stepped into the industry years ago and left their footsteps on the sands of reel-time.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857779>

The Cinema of Wang Bing: Chinese Documentary between History and Labor / Bruno Lessard

Hong Kong Universities Press, Hong Kong 2023
188p.
9789888805778
\$ 60.00 / HB

Having made documentary films screened at the most prestigious film festivals in the West, Chinese documentary filmmaker Wang Bing presents a unique case of independent filmmaking. In *The Cinema of Wang Bing*, Bruno Lessard examines the documentarian's most important films, focusing on the two obsessions at the heart of his oeuvre—the legacy of Maoist China in the present and the transformation of labor since China's entry into the market economy—and how the crucial figures of survivor and worker are represented on screen. Bruno Lessard argues that Wang Bing is a minjian (grassroots) intellectual whose films document the impact of Mao's Great Leap Forward on Chinese collective memory and register the repercussions of China's turn to neoliberalism on workers in the post-Reform era. Bringing together Chinese documentary studies and China studies, the author shows how Wang Bing's practice reflects the minjian ethos when documenting the survivors of the Great Famine and those who have not benefitted from China's neoliberal policies—from laid-off workers to migrant workers. The films discussed include some of Wang Bing's most celebrated works such as *West of the Tracks* and *Dead Souls*, as well as neglected documentaries such as *Coal Money* and *Bitter Money*.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860010>

The Last Emperor Revisited / Basil Pao
Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong 2023
288p. ; 27cm
9789888805761
\$ 90.00 / HB

1900 gm.

The Last Emperor Revisited is a true behind-the-scenes look at the making of Bernardo Bertolucci's legendary film through the exquisite eye of a photographer who had unlimited access to everyone and everything, everywhere. The photographs feature an international cast of characters who contributed to the creation of the masterpiece, from the director, filmmakers, and actors, to the farmers, workers, and students in and around Beijing who were recruited as extras.

In July 1986, Basil Pao joined the cast and crew for the filming of The Last Emperor. His principal role was to play the young emperor Pu Yi's father Prince Chun, but he also served as a third assistant director and special stills photographer.

The book contains over 250 photographs, including some of Pao's most iconic images of the film, along with a treasure trove of "never-been-seen" pictures captured during filming in Beijing and Italy. In Pao's own words: "It is the chronicle of a truly extraordinary experience that completely changed my life."

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860009>

Malaysian Cinema and Beyond: Genre, Representation and the Nation / Wan Aida Wan Yahaya (Ed)

SIRD-Strategic Information and Research Development Centre, Malaysia 2024

xviii, 222p.

9786297575148

\$ 20.00 / null

400 gm.

In exploring the diverse landscape of Malaysian cinema, this book delves into the intricate intersections of genre, representation, and the nation. From the golden era of P Ramlee's musical comedies to contemporary horror, action, and arthouse films, the book charts the evolution of Malaysian cinema and its cultural significance. With a critical lens, it analyses how different genres have been used to express social and political issues, as well as how representations of gender, ethnicity, and religion have shaped the identity of the nation on screen. From the iconic representation of the 'ideal' Malay woman to the subversion of cultural norms in independent films, the book examines the complex negotiations between the local and the global, the traditional and the modern, and the dominant and the marginal. A must-read for anyone interested in Southeast Asian cinema and its cultural politics.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=861064>

Richard Green in South African Film: Forging Creative New Directions / Keyan G Tomaselli & Richard Green

BestRed, South Africa 2023

xx, 276p.

Includes Index

9781928246602

\$ 45.00 / null

350 gm.

Both a history and a critique of South Africa's film industry, this book recounts the long experience of filmmaker and producer Richard Green.

Green's story—especially his work in forging the film initiative New Directions Africa—is emblematic of the struggles, negotiations, and competing ideologies that faced South Africa as it emerged from apartheid. He continues to be an essential part of what is now a burgeoning industry that not only supports the creative work of Africans, but is also seen as having an important role in the nation-building process.

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