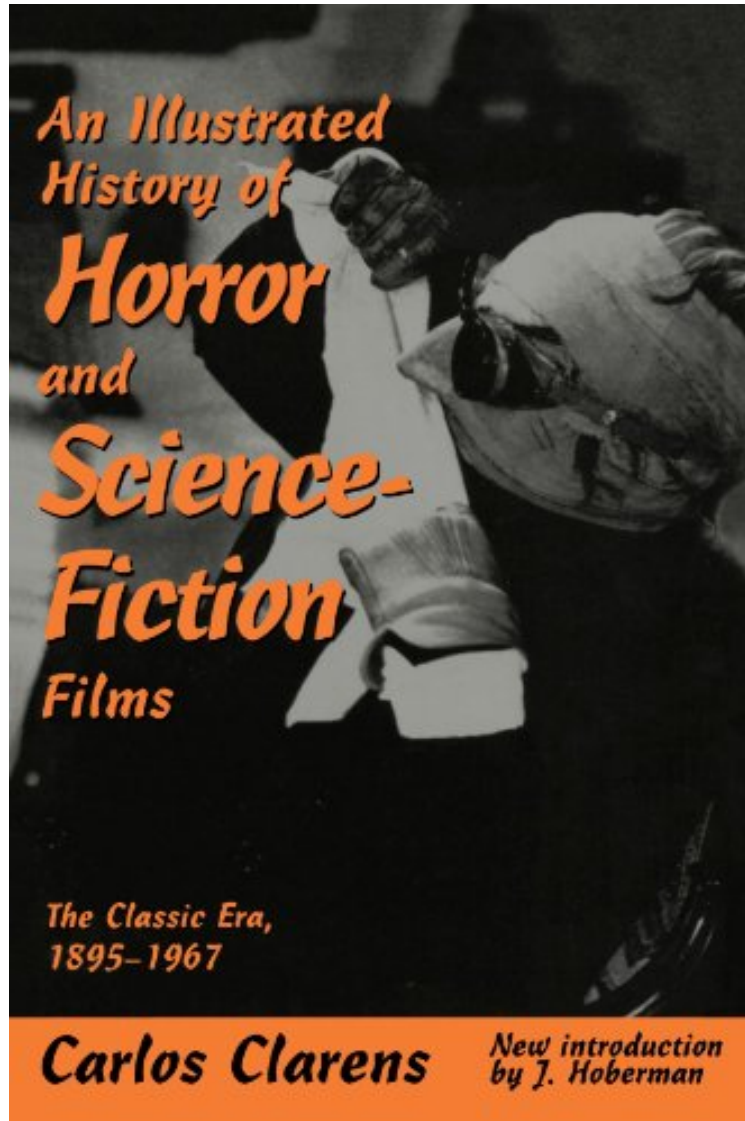


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An Illustrated History Of Horror And Science-fiction Films

Carlos Clarens

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Carlos Clarens : An Illustrated History Of Horror And Science-fiction Films before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Illustrated History Of Horror And Science-fiction Films:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Pretty insightful bookBy Michael HannahPretty insightful book. While I don't agree with the author on some of his points, nor does my instructor, it's still pretty cool to learn the

history of horror films. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Most influential book on Horror Films ever made! By James Simpson Carlos Clarens pioneering book, "A History of Horror and Science Fiction Films", has never gone fully out of print since its publication in 1967. An absolute classic, this was one of the only books at the time to give an in depth, intelligent view of the genre. This and Drake Douglas' "Horror!" were the only books on the subject at the time. Clarens gives a close examination of the Fantastic film, providing an entire chapter on the genre's godfather, the great George Melies and moving on to the impact provided by the German film industry and Lon Chaney. Of course, the Universal classics are then covered and there contemporaries, but what made this book unique was also its appraisal of neglected classics like Freaks (1932), White Zombie (1932), Island of Lost Souls (1933) and an entire chapter (The Dead Next Door) dedicated to Carl Dreyer's Vampyr (1932). Clarens even goes over the Science Fiction films and Hammer films of the 50s and 60s. These films were never receiving any such critical assessment at the time, and it made this work that much more commendable. Ironically, over forty years have passed since its initial publication, but Claren's views on the genre still remain very relevant and true, making this history an essential part of any Film Studies and any Film lover's collection. A truly important book, well worth seeking out. 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A Classic to Read and Remember--Not For Skimming! By NervieCatLike another reviewer, I first read the '67 edition of Clarens' book when I was in high school. Already a horror movie fan, I needed context and appreciation of the genre, and that's exactly what this wonderful book provided, then and now. This is a book for the serious fan in search of a history of both the technique and ideas behind horror films. Clarens' observations about specific films' production, actors' performances, and even camera tricks will stay with you and help you to enjoy horror movies, old and new, even more than you did before. It is illustrated well, but it's an illustrated history, not an annotated photo catalog. Thus this is a book with terrific words and ideas, plus images--it's not intended to be a glossy fan mag with captions. Approach it with an expectation of ideas plus a few images, and let your imagination work its magic. Read the book to understand the big picture--not just to savor a few illustrations. I'm thrilled with the re-issue, and expect the book to support intelligent fans as well as cinema scholars. It's a book to keep, appreciate, and savor.

In this book Carlos Clarens, author of Crime Movies (also available from Da Capo/Perseus), George Cukor, and many articles in film magazines, brings his encyclopedic knowledge of films and filmmakers to the subject of horror and science-fiction films of the classic era. Whether discussing the erotic aspects of King Kong, examining the works of Val Lewton, contrasting the director's attitude toward the monster in Frankenstein and The Bride of Frankenstein, accounting for the special genius of Lon Chaney, or comparing the various versions of Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde, Clarens entertains as he enlightens. Supplemented with a new introduction by J. Hoberman, Village Voice film critic and coauthor of Midnight Movies (also available from Da Capo/Perseus), and an extensive filmography listing complete credits for over 300 films, this fascinating study illuminates both the genre and the reasons for its popularity.

.com This classic study of horror and science fiction movies was first published in 1967, the year before films such as Rosemary's Baby and 2001: A Space Odyssey transformed both genres. Readers interested in the many horror and science fiction films made before the modern era of graphic violence and special-effects extravaganzas will be enthralled by An Illustrated History of Horror and Science Fiction Film. It summarizes the plots and relates the importance of a wide variety of relevant films, from the early work of Georges Mlis and the German expressionists to Universal Pictures horror movies such as the original Dracula and Frankenstein to the suggestively atmospheric work of Val Lewton and the sci-fi classics of the 1950s. Clarens makes fascinating observations about the mythical value of these films and their cathartic effect on viewers. His insights are so powerful and expressive that J. Hoberman, who wrote an introduction to the book's 1997 reissue, found that "this idiosyncratic genre history was really an idiosyncratic history of the commercial cinema as it had developed, in Europe and America, from the 1890s through the mid-1960s." An Illustrated History of Horror and Science Fiction Film contains scores of terrific black-and-white illustrations and a detailed filmography. About the Author Carlos Clarens wrote An Illustrated History of the Horror Film, George Cukor, and many articles in Sight and Sound and Film Comment. His books include The Dark Side of the Screen: Film Noir (also available from Da Capo Press/ Perseus Books Group).