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How can we understand the history of film?

Historical facts don't answer the basic questions of film history. History, as this fascinating book shows, is more than the simple accumulation of film titles, facts and figures. This is a survey of over 100 years of cinema history, from its beginnings in 1895, to its current state in the twenty-first century.

An accessible, introductory text, *Movie History: A Survey* looks at not only the major films, filmmakers, and cinema institutions throughout the years, but also extends to the production, distribution, exhibition, technology and reception of films. The textbook is divided chronologically into four sections, using the timeline of technological changes:

Section One looks at the era of silent movies from 1895 to 1927; Section Two starts with the coming of sound and covers 1928 until 1950; Section Three runs from 1951 to 1975 and deals with the coming and development of television; and Section Four focuses on the coming of home video and the transition to digital, from 1975 to 2010.

Key pedagogical features include:

timelines in each section help students to situate the films within a broader historical context
case study boxes with close-up analysis of specific film histories and a particular emphasis on film reception
lavishly illustrated with over 450 color images to put faces to names, and to connect pictures to film titles
margin notes add background information and clarity
glossary for clear understanding of the key terms described
references and further reading at the end of each chapter to enhance further study.

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A supporting website will be available from June 2010 at www.routledge.com/textbooks/moviehistory, with lots of extra materials, useful for the classroom or independent study, including:

additional case studies - new, in-depth and unique to the website

international case studies - for the Netherlands in Dutch and English

timeline - A movie history timeline charting key dates in the history of cinema from 1890 to the present day

revision flash cards - ideal for getting to grips with key terms in film studies

related resources - on the website you will find every link from the book for ease of use, plus access to additional online material

students are also invited to submit their own movie history case studies - see website for details

Written by two highly respected film scholars and experienced teachers, *Movie History* is the ideal textbook for students studying film history.