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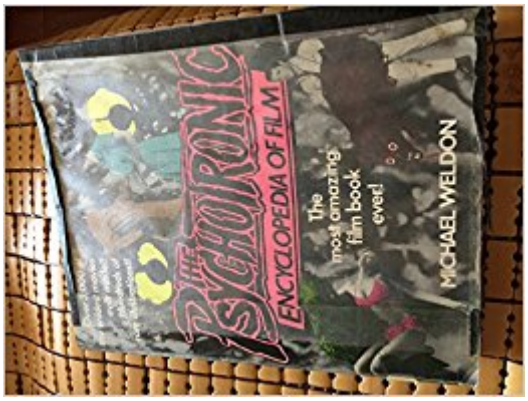
The Psychotronic Encyclopedia Of Film



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Synopsis

The Complete Viewers' Guide to the Weirdest Movies of All Time!From the slightly offbeat to the outlandishly bizarre...from the no-budget quickie to the multimillion-dollar box-office smash...Psychotronic films range from Attack of the Killer Tomatoes to E.T....from Angel's Wild Women and Hellcats of the Navy to/Dismember Mama and Let Me Die A Woman...from sincere social commentary to utter trash.Psychotronic stars are ex-models, ex-sports heroes, dead rock idols, future presidents, would-be Marilyns, and has-beens of all types.Psychotronic films keep sleepless fans glued to their TVs and lined up outside revival houses in big cities and small towns all over the country.See these outrageous films through the eyes of Michael Weldon, the world's leading authority on Psychotronic films!Arranged from A to Z! Crammed with rare illustrations!Featuring cast, crew, and characters!Uniquely eccentric reviews of over 3,000 movies!Warning: The author of this book has been watching these movies obsessively since the age of 6. He is now unfit for conventional employment. Because of the addictive nature of these films, we the publishers cannot guarantee that your sanity won't be endangered by reading this book. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

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The most awesome book ever written. Well -- one of them, anyway. Bring it back into print!

This Michael Weldon Book is THE best reference for all B, Z & beyond films. I also highly recommend any purchase from the honorable Seller 'Jane's Gentleman'.

I am the first to confess that not everyone spends their time wondering if they might like to watch Untamed Women tonight, or have an Ed Wood film festival, but I am one of them. Call me crazy (ahem!), but I like really bad old movies, especially the ones that try to scare/pander you. Perhaps I yearn for the time when showing a bit of cleavage was considered racy. So I nose around the discount rack looking for such gems as Mermaids of Tiburon or The Earth Dies Screaming. I come across a copy of Demonoid. Should I buy it or not? Comes the rescue the Psychotronic guide which safely guides me through these murky dark waters. It and its companion Video guide are essential for those who share my idea of fun, with reviews of 6000 screen gems, such as Curse at Cactus Creek and Robot Monster.Perhaps my only objection is that the guide makes no pretense at being authoritative. For example, When a Stranger Calls is reivewed (favorably), but its sequel, When a Stranger Calls back, does not appear at all (and is arguably the better movie). There is also a smattering of "legitimate" film, such as Pursuit of the Graf Spee, and Polyester. No matter, all the films reviewed are, at the least, quirky, and there is a pretty good chance, at any rate, that the film you seek is reviewed. If not, you will have great fun just looking for it.My only grief is that the concordance is limited to an index. After all, what more important thing could there be than a filmography of Barbara Steele, the geratest actress that ever lived?These things aside, I recommend this without hesitation. There are other books listing gore/sleeze/exploitation films, but

you will find none better.

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Our culture started embracing trash cinema in the early 80s, when the Medved brothers conceivedÃ Â The Golden Turkey Awards: The Worst Achievements in Hollywood History, but the wise-ass brothers didn't love the trash, they mocked it. Nevertheless, they put a spotlight on trash cinema that would be expanded upon in the years to follow, and with much greater affection, by influences as far-ranging as Frank HenenlotterÃ Â Mau Mau Sex Sex [VHS], Quentin TarantinoÃ Â Grindhouse (Two-Disc Collector's Edition) [Blu-ray]& FangoriaÃ Â].The tidal wave of love for trash cinema that first began in the 1980s produced nothing greater than this book, a compendium of 3,000 movies that you must see but probably didn't...on first acquiring this volume, you'll be spending hours compiling a Netflix list until, exhausted, you retire to bed with the book hardly dented.The book's editor and main author, Michael Weldon, published and edited a fine journal of trash culture,Ã Â Psychotronic Video Number Twelve, Spring 1992Ã Â which is sorely missed; and one of the contributing reviewers here is "Uncle Bob" Martin, the first editor of Fangoria, and a co-writer of two modern-day trash cinema classicsÃ Â Ã Â Frankenhooker]YOU NEED THIS BOOK!

For true schlock fans like me, this is simply the ultimate resource. Weldon has seen everything, and he has amazing taste in classic trash film. If you worship Bela Lugosi or Allison Hayes or Russ Meyer, this is your book. If you have no interest in people like these, it probably isn't.

I can hardly believe this book was published in 1983! A thorough and lavishly illustrated magnum opus that is a must for any cult cinema fan! Hours of enjoyment lay in wait.

I'd like to give this book a higher rating. It is one of the very first reference works for genre films, compiled back in a pre-Internet age before imdb.com existed and without any benefit from the legions of blogs and dedicated sites that now exist for horror and science fiction and fantasy fandoms. It's had a definite influence on subsequent works and is not infrequently cited by various reviewers and list compilers. With that being said, though, I have to evaluate it on the basis of its present-day utility, and from that persepctive, it's very much outdated and is generally lacking in insight and analysis.The selection is extremely broad and includes dozens of films (Bond and Elvis

movies, for instance) that wouldn't generally be included in any collections written today. Many entries are exceptionally minimal, including almost no details and usually a lack of any opinion or judgment. This makes it hard to figure out what makes some of these movies worthy of any further consideration by the reader.As perhaps a point in its favor, it's almost amusingly idiosyncratic in some way. The author comes across as being 80 years old, clearly hating all popular music after about 1962, and lovingly recording at length any appearance or performance by singers or groups from the Fifties. He also is amazingly fond of any movies featuring motorcycle or auto racing.There's a generous selection of publicity stills and other photos, many of which seem to have come from the author's personal collection.This is a good selection for the completist who wants every reference book of this type, but otherwise at this juncture it's far too out of date to offer much value and is crippled by its refusal to offer in-depth critiques or even more than sketchily rudimentary plot synopses. With the wealth of material available elsewhere, it simply can't compete.

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