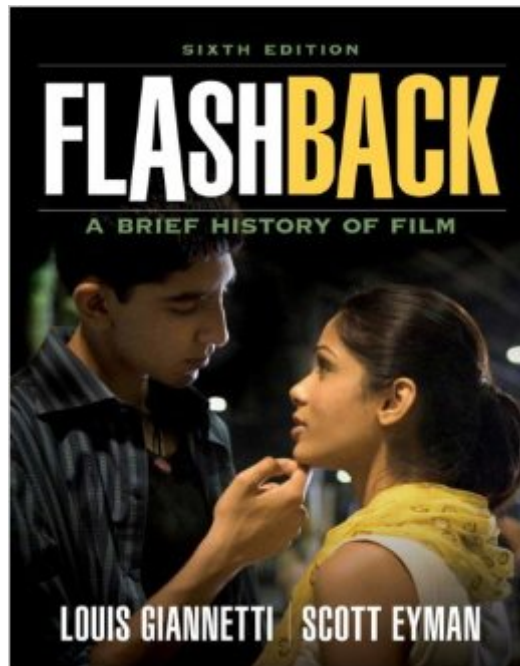


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Flashback: A Brief Film History (6th Edition)



Synopsis

Consolidating major figures and film movements into their decade of greatest influence or prestige, this "sno-nonsense" book offers a generously illustrated, concise, and very readable history of fiction movies with an emphasis on American cinema. Eclectic in methodology and written in a plain English style that audiences can relate to, it examines the full scope of traditional film history and criticism, viewing film as both an art and an industry "as it mirrors popular audience values, social ideologies, and historical epochs."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I used this book for my History of Film class and I absolutely hated it. The writing style is terrible, the book is cluttered and unorganized. For example, some directors are described in one decade, but the authors write about the movies they made 10 or 20 years before. Some of the film descriptions feature more text about the actor than the film. The index is unusable to find anything. I was looking for Brad Pitt and the index only showed two entries. After reading the whole textbook I found more entries about Brad Pitt in the text that were not in the index. If you are trying to write a paper and are looking for references in the book because your professor tells you to give references to the textbook it is almost impossible to find the entries using the index because it is so terrible. You also have to go through several chapters and blurbs to find all the little references to one person or film. I hope the authors will streamline this book in the next edition and enhance the index. I could also go on and on about their selection of featured films and actors, which I found strange.

This book is fairly useless. I purchased it for a class I am taking but find it to be only supplemental to the material in the course. The glossary is very limited and the glossary terms are not included in the index - this makes finding information not about a specific director/film nearly impossible. The one benefit of the book is the large amount of pictures included about the movies mentioned. If you do not need this book for a class then you should consider renting, or skipping it altogether, as there is not much useful information included in it.

I wish the author would shut the hell up. He writes as if he is writing encyclopedia's. Except an encyclopedia would have been more interesting than this book and I've read many many many books on films, and just books in general. He takes 3 pages to say what he could have summed up in 3 paragraphs. It's ridiculous. According to my professor the author drives a bentley and I guess this is how he pays for it, with an obnoxiously over priced, over written, glorified, stack of what could be better used as paper played down for paint droplets. It was necessary to pass my class. Otherwise, honestly I would never recommend anyone buy this. You learn more elsewhere.

I bought this book for my History of Cinema class. Loved the class, but the book was just "okay" for me. Mainly, because of the writing style of the author. If you like studying the history of foreign films and foreign directors, then you'll love this book. The book focuses on both American and foreign films and directors from the early 1900's, the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's, 50's, 60's and 70's. It's informative all right. I just was not crazy about the authors writing style. But I had to study it for class.

Needed for a film history class- good for giving a brief overview of importance of certain films and directors. I would have liked it better if it would have included more specifics about the film techniques. It is a good quick-reference for year-by-year important contributions to film from pre-1900 up to around 2007 or so.

This text moves back and forth from American to International cinema by decades in alternating chapters. I use it as a resource in several courses in American Film that I teach. You can read the entire book for a fairly quick overview of American movies over time and their foreign influences. The text also provides background information, chronologies and suggestions for further reading. If you want a very complete and detailed film history this isn't the book, but it is very good in what it

attempts to do.

This was great for my film class, detailed information about films and the people that make them. Just the photos in this book are in black and white.

Pretty good book if you're into film history. Not really my thing, just wanted to try out the class. The book has great pictures and descriptions and helped with the class.

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