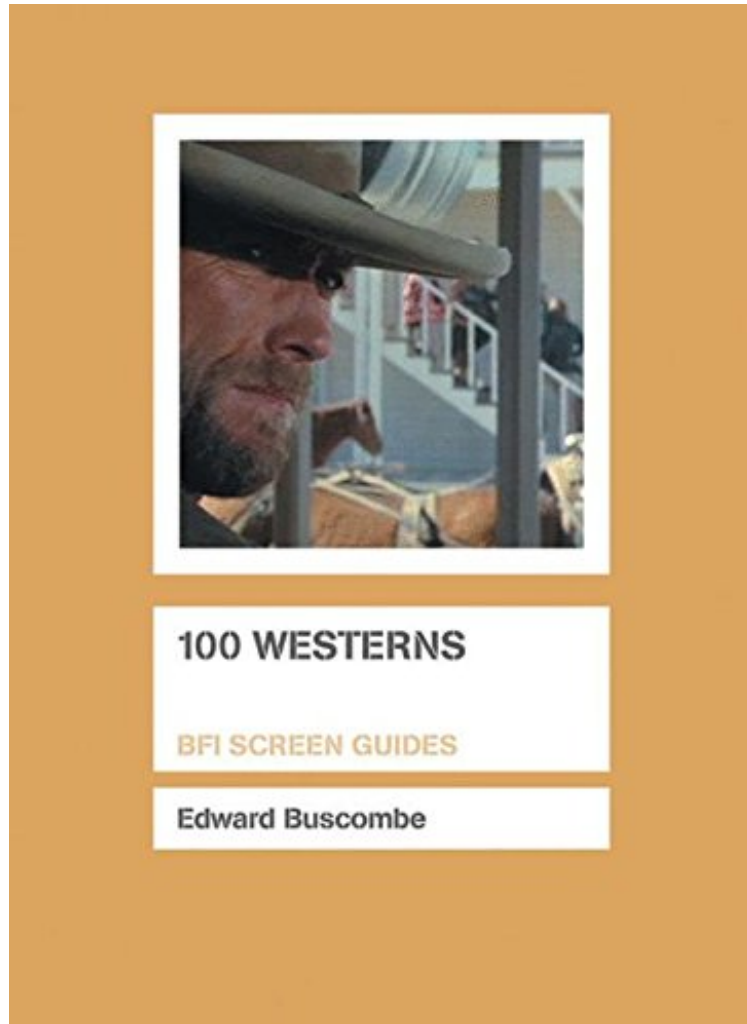


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100 Westerns (Screen Guides)

Edward Buscombe

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#2723516 in Books British Film Institute 2006-06-16 2008-01-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.00 x 1.00 x 5.00l, .74 #File Name: 1844571122264 pages | File size: 21.Mb

Edward Buscombe : 100 Westerns (Screen Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 100 Westerns (Screen Guides):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent survey of the western filmBy Robert McArthurEdward Buscombe knows and loves western movies like no one else. And more importantly, he can communicate that understanding in a way that makes sense. You won't find in this book any of the double talk and other drivel that often shows up in books about the cinema, particularly those written by "serious" students of the art. Instead, you get plain speaking about what makes these 100 westerns great films. My list of 100 westerns doesn't line up exactly with Buscombe's list and yours may not either. But that's okay. It's still an enjoyable and informative read.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Useful But Not Essential Guide For Western FansBy TMStylesBuscombe has

selected "100 Westerns" for this British Film Institute compilation of westerns from the silent era to those of today (few that there may now be). Each of the 100 entries includes a brief synopsis, the major film credits, and his personal comments on the film's historical or cultural significance and/or its influence on the genre. As a long time fan of the American West and of the Western, I read the volume with interest and while I wouldn't disagree much on Buscombe's commentaries which I found mainly congruent with most of the film critiques out there, I would disagree with his choice of the 100. To be fair, the author points out that he tried to include a broad representation of the Western genre including foreign, silent, and at least one from every decade since movies began. And in all honesty, any two western critics would never replicate one another's list precisely. That being said, I question the inclusion of "Oh, Susanna!", "Go West", "Lonesome Cowboys", "Calamity Jane" and "Support Your Local Sheriff" while excluding the acknowledged contributions of "The Virginian", "Tombstone", "Cheyenne Autumn", "The Ox-Bow Incident", "Jesse James", and "Lonesome Dove". There are insightful comments regarding the directorial giants of the Western genre including John Ford, Howard Hawks, Sam Peckinpah, Anthony Mann, and Budd Boetticher but too little for my taste. To exclude some of their significant works from his top 100 seems a self-defeating scheme to substitute breadth of the genre for depth of the genre. But this work is recommended to the reader who is either researching the American Western or the casual reader who remembers the fun of going to the movies while growing up to see bigger than life cowboys modeling good versus evil for our impressionable minds--and for those of us, who still revel in those films and those memories.

5 of 10 people found the following review helpful. pretty good guide.....By William W. Miller

Discussions of 100 western films is entertaining and a useful reference. If I would have picked 100, I might have included a few not included in this volume, but hey, anything that talks western movies is OK with me.

Addresses the perennial appeal of the Western, exploring its 19th century popular culture, and its relationship to the economic structure of Hollywood. This work considers the defining features of the Western and traces its main cycles, from the epic Westerns of the 1920s and singing cowboys of the 1930s to the Spaghetti Westerns of the 1960s.

From the Back Cover

The Western is one of Hollywood cinema's most potent and enduring genres, bound up with America's understanding of itself as a frontier nation. Edward Buscombe provides an illuminating guide to a hundred key films of the genre, from "Bad Day at Black Rock" to "The Wild Bunch", by way of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid", "A Fistful of Dollars", "The Searchers" and "The Magnificent Seven". Each entry includes a plot synopsis, major credits, and a commentary on the film's significance and its production and exhibition history. Edward Buscombe's introduction to the volume addresses the perennial appeal of the Western, exploring its 19th century popular culture, and its relationship to the economic structure of Hollywood. He considers the defining features of the Western - the concept of the frontier, and the key role of masculinity - and traces its main cycles, from the epic Westerns of the 1920s and singing cowboys of the 1930s to the Spaghetti Westerns of the 1960s and its marked decline from the 1970s, as well as the contribution of major auteurs such as Ford, Mann, Peckinpah, Leone and Eastwood.

About the Author

EDWARD BUSCOMBE is the editor of *The BFI Companion to Western* and has written on *Stagecoach*, *The Searchers* and *The Unforgiven* in the *BFI Film Classics* series. His most recent book is *Cinema Today*, published by Phaidon.