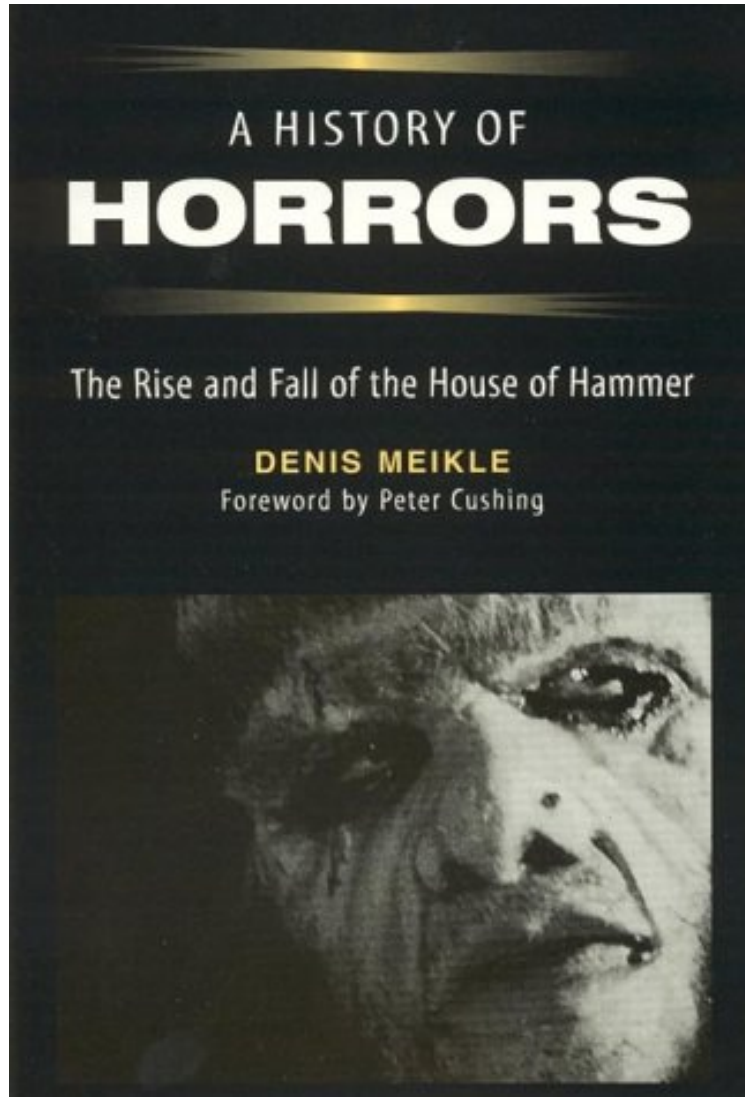


(Download) A History of Horrors: The Rise and Fall of the House of Hammer

A History of Horrors: The Rise and Fall of the House of Hammer

Denis Meikle

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Denis Meikle : A History of Horrors: The Rise and Fall of the House of Hammer before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of Horrors: The Rise and Fall of the House of Hammer:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for Hammer Horror Fans By Machete Jason History of Horrors (2008; 312 Pages) is an eye-opening look at Hammer Horror. Hammer had a storied history of film-making and some legendary stars and directors attached to them. Many Hammer Horror books are fluff pieces. Check out this well-researched book on the company who had the ability to try new things and provide quality films to their fans.

There is a full history from its fledgling days in the late 1940s through its successes of the 1950s and '60s to its decline and eventual liquidation in the late 1970s. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Eye-opening, to the point of ruining the magic. By Mike The good news is that for more-than-casual Hammer horror fans, this is a meticulously researched studio history, written from the business perspective, that goes far deeper than the usual rehashes found in horror encyclopedias and video guides. Meikle does a great job of putting the British film industry into a larger 1950s and '60s context, and sheds the light on Hammer's spotty U.S. distribution history for those of us who grew up on this side of the pond as frustrated young monster magazine readers wondering why the movies in our monster magazines (especially in the later years) never came to theaters or only played grindhouses and drive-ins. The bad news is that the author is so down on Hammer's output in general that you wonder how he ever mustered the enthusiasm to tackle the topic in the first place. It's one thing to flail the usual whipping posts (he calls "Scars of Dracula" "irredeemably tacky"). But the harsh tone extends to even the usually acknowledged classics, such as "The Mummy" and "Curse of Frankenstein." Maybe Meikle feels it goes without saying that Hammer often captured lighting in a bottle in spite of its own scripts and budgets that today wouldn't even measure up to first-run syndication TV such as "Hercules." You appreciate the clear-eyed approach, but Anchor Bay seems to have a better attitude with its "even the cheesy stuff has its charms" approach to the background materials on its DVD releases. If anything, a Hammer fan goes away from the book feeling it's a miracle these films came out as good as they were, after the author unveils the cynicism and/or studio heads' lack of faith in the source material that U.S. fans always took for granted with our "The British do this stuff best" assumptions. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love Hammer Movies. By Sam The history of Hammer Studios is full of ups and downs and when it ends it is so softly and it breaks the heart. If you're a fan of Hammer movies read it. I read it some years ago when it first came out. I have such fond memories of Hammer Horror films. And with DVDs I own many. The history of that incredible company and the people who created the movies is a part of film history. And Hammer Studios is Back! Let Me In. Is the new Hammer film. You can now call Hammer the studio that wouldn't die.

A History of Horrors traces the life and spirit of the 'House of Hammer' from its fledgling days of the late 1940s, through its successes of the 1950s and 60s, to its decline in the 1970s. Through the eyes of many of the studio's key players, and through the works of film critics and historians, the book paints a vivid and fascinating picture of the rise and fall of a film empire, offering what author Denis Meikle refers to as 'the truth behind that legend.'

s of previous edition: Meikle has told the Hammer story like one of our best novels...Even though his work is research-based, it never reads like a stuffy, academic piece. In fact, this book's true greatness is in Meikle's eloquent, witty style that divulges his shrewd savvy and intelligence at work. Books about film studios do not get any better than this.... (Little Shoppe Of Horrors) s of previous edition ...not only the answer to every Hammer fan's dream but also one of the best books written about any film studio..... (Filmfax) s of previous edition: For his sanguine and fascinating biography of the best-known British studio of fantasy and macabre, Meikle opened some cinematic crypts. An indispensable and worthy addition to every film library, Meikle has unearthed well-buried facts and given them new life.... (Choice)...unmatched in making a gripping story... (Sight Sound). s of previous edition ...is of much use to the avid Hammer fan..... (Samhain) s of previous edition: ...a labour of love for its author. Meikle has succeeded in digging up fine details about the making of the studio's classic chillers. Meikle's prose is enthusiastic and engaging... (Crimson) s of previous edition ...not only the answer to every Hammer fan's dream but also one of the best books written about any film studio. (Filmfax) s of previous edition: For his sanguine and fascinating biography of the best-known British studio of fantasy and macabre, Meikle opened some cinematic crypts. An indispensable and worthy addition to every film library, Meikle has unearthed well-buried facts and given them new life. (Choice) s of previous edition: A long time in the making, but the result more than compensates...compulsive reading...a fascinating, well-researched study which offers a unique insight into the company's key figures... (Dark Terrors). s of previous edition ...is of much use to the avid Hammer fan... (Samhain) s of previous edition: ...a gripping read, painting a vivid portrait of the corporate horrors in which Hammer became increasingly mired as the years passed...Meikle deftly sketches in the profound social changes which occurred during Hammer's supremacy...splendid -- close to definitive... (Shivers). s of previous edition: ..far and away the best book I've read about the business of making horror films...compulsively readable. (Video Watchdog) s of previous edition: Finally, a creditable author, with access to private files and previously hidden data, has taken the Hammer saga and distilled it into a superb book...[it] is, without reservation, the best film history book in at least a decade, a compulsively readable account of a dream factory whose fascinating output was unique in the world of cinema...[Meikle's] style--articulate, balanced, engaging --invites us into a world to which outsiders are denied access, and examines it with a skilled reporter's thoroughness. History of Horrors does what a great film book should: It makes you want to see the movie again. (Sarasota Herald-Tribune) s of previous edition ...a very solid book, dense information, good judgment, and an eye for foible. (Stage, Screen, Radio) s of previous edition: Meikle has told the Hammer story like one of our best novels...Even though his work is research-based, it never reads like a stuffy, academic piece. In fact, this book's true greatness is in Meikle's eloquent, witty style

that divulges his shrewd savvy and intelligence at work. Books about film studios do not get any better than this. (Little Shoppe Of Horrors) s of previous edition: ...undoubtedly THE book for the Hammer aficionado. (David Whitehead) s of previous edition: ..the Hammer tale is entertaining reading, as well as a valuable document. History of Horrors also does what a great film book should: It makes you want to see the movies again. (Sun Sentinel) s of previous edition: With this well-researched book, Meikle examines the studio from its early successes, through its profitable years and finally during its decline after more than two decades in business. (Burlington County Times) s of previous edition: ...a well-researched book... (Bucks County Courier Times) s of previous edition ...endlessly fascinating. Anyone who has watched Hammer movies will like this...the major, and not so major, entries are covered in detail...it may be the best source ever on Hammer...footnotes are excellent and contain much that couldn't be shoehorned into the main text. Don't skip them. The illustrations are very good. (Movie Collector's World)There are plenty of books about the rise and fall of the House of Hammer but non so all-encompassing as this authoritative 1996 overview....a keenly researched chronology, which vigorously explores the making of such classics as The Curse of Frankenstein, Dracula and The Devil Rides Out, excavating a crypt load of fascinating facts and figures as it does so. Hammers' decline in the seventies was swift as its rise in the fifties, and all of this is grist to the tale told here, which is presented with an unswerving desire for the truth behind the legend. Film histories don't come much better than this. (Film)College-level film studies collection will find this documentary a vivid survey of the changing British film industry, with chapters considering both major productions and industry trends. Film studies collections with a special focus on British film will find it a fine addition. (Paul Vogel Midwest Book)From the Back CoverThe story begins in the late 1940s when the little-known British film studio was struggling to survive. That all changed in 1957 with the overwhelming success of The Curse of Frankenstein and continued through the 1960s and well into the 1970s. During those years, Hammer Film Productions produced more than sixty films that transported cinema-goers from a world facing the threat of nuclear war and the demise of the planet to a dark, Gothic fantasyland peopled with vampires and virgins, madmen and mummies. While film critics might not always have responded favorably, audiences loved them. A History of Horrors traces the history of the House of Hammer in rich and highly readable detail, providing a unique perspective on the creative spirit that built the studio into one of the most successful British film companies of its time and on the changing world that brought about the studio's downfall. With the aid of many of Hammer's key players - including actors Peter Cushing, Oliver Reed, and Christopher Lee; producers Anthony Hinds and Kenneth Hyman; and studio head Michael Carreras - Denis Meikle paints a compelling picture of a bygone era in filmmaking.About the AuthorDenis Meikle, a former graphic designer and a one-time film critic, is now a full-time author.