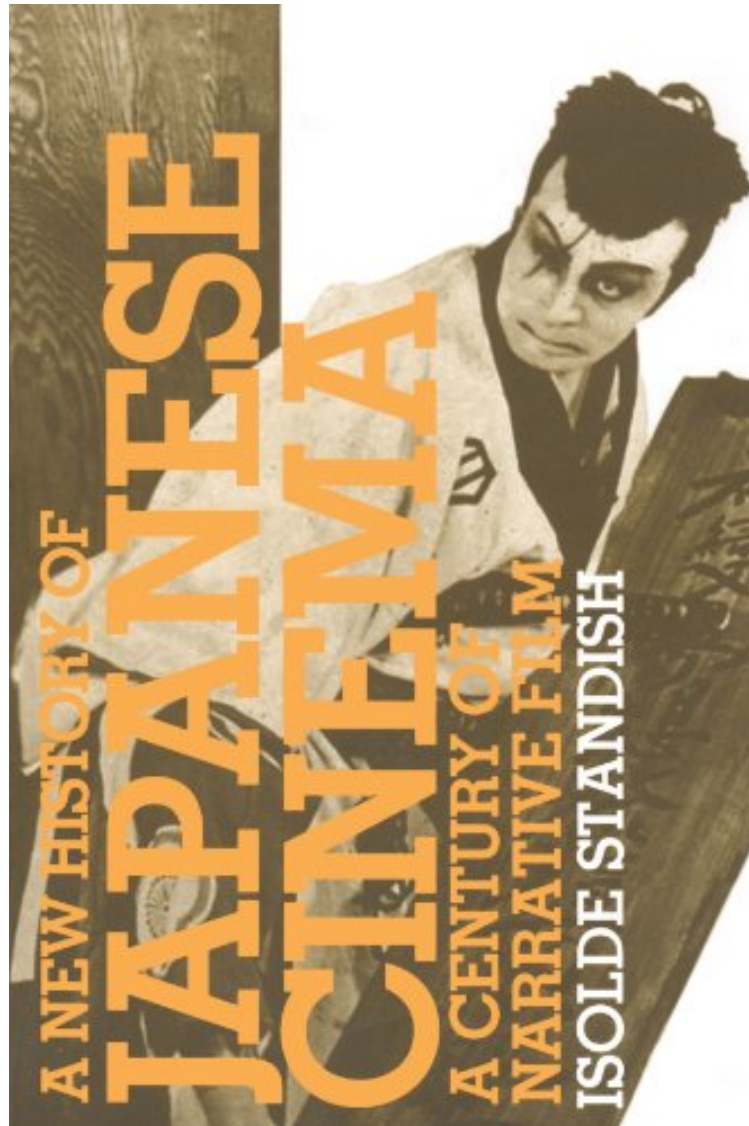


(Download) A New History of Japanese Cinema: A Century of Narrative Film

A New History of Japanese Cinema: A Century of Narrative Film

Isolde Standish

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Isolde Standish : A New History of Japanese Cinema: A Century of Narrative Film before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A New History of Japanese Cinema: A Century of Narrative Film:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well DoneBy RenStandish generally writes well. At times, she repeats herself once too often, or trails off on a tangent only distantly related to the topic at hand. The side-tracks are interesting, however, and these issues aside, the writing is clear, comprehensible, well explained, well cited, and with

plenty of examples and resources for further inquiry by the reader. She also has a sense of humour I appreciated, too often lacking from a serious study of film and history, and not so overdone as to be out of place. The cinematic aspects of what she covers, with the exception of an inexplicable misunderstanding of deep focus, are spot-on. This my professor of film informed me, and being no expert on film, I cannot myself elaborate. The historical aspects are sometimes overgeneralised or misrepresented, but in ways excusable to the well-read historian (ie, my professor) as being due to many Japanese, and a few foreign, historians' own misunderstandings of history not corrected until recent times, some only after the book was published. With these exceptions, the history and research is sound and relevant. Being an amateur historian, it is here that the book loses a star, though the fault is not unique to the author, nor present in every chapter. There are few books in English covering this subject, and my professor informed the class that no other (English language) books written in the past two decades covers in depth both the cinematic and historical backgrounds of Japanese film. Standish makes such a feat appear effortless. 1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Japanese film history viewed through Eurogoggles By StuQuite possibly the most misinformed, Eurocentric bit of hogwash that has ever been written on Japanese cinema. Someone should also introduce Ms. Standish to the concepts of "the period" and "the run-on sentence"; the book would certainly benefit from greater inclusion of the former and avoidance of the latter, although the result would only be slightly more stylistically pleasing hogwash. 5 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Dry as toast and just as unreadable... By Iza SmartyWAY too dry and scholarly, I couldn't even get past the foreword. It is not for the average reader who just wants a history of Japanese film.

In *A New History of Japanese Cinema* Isolde Standish focuses on the historical development of Japanese film. She details an industry and an art form shaped by the competing and merging forces of traditional culture and of economic and technological innovation. Adopting a thematic, exploratory approach, Standish links the concept of Japanese cinema as a system of communication with some of the central discourses of the twentieth century: modernism, nationalism, humanism, resistance, and gender. After an introduction outlining the earliest years of cinema in Japan, Standish demonstrates cinema's symbolic position in Japanese society in the 1930s - as both a metaphor and a motor of modernity. Moving into the late thirties and early forties, Standish analyses cinema's relationship with the state-focusing in particular on the war and occupation periods. The book's coverage of the post-occupation period looks at "romance" films in particular. Avant-garde directors came to the fore during the 1960s and early seventies, and their work is discussed in depth. The book concludes with an investigation of genre and gender in mainstream films of recent years. In grappling with Japanese film history and criticism, most western commentators have concentrated on offering interpretations of what have come to be considered "classic" films. *A New History of Japanese Cinema* takes a genuinely innovative approach to the subject, and should prove an essential resource for many years to come.

A ground-breaking and original work written with considerable expertise, *A New History of Japanese Cinema* is enhanced with a section of Reflections, extensive notations, a Select Filmography, a Select Bibliography, and an exhaustive index, making it especially recommended for academic library Cinematic Studies and Japanese Popular Culture reference collections and supplemental reading lists. The Midwest Book , June 2005 (Midwest Book)"full of helpful historical information...both readable and persuasive...includes an extensive bibliography, filmography, and endnotes. It will be valuable to those pursuing film studies, cultural studies, and Japanese studies...Highly recommended"- Choice, R. Ducharme, Mount Saint Mary's University (R. Ducharme, Mount Saint Mary's University CHOICE)"full of helpful historical information...both readable and persuasive...includes an extensive bibliography, filmography, and endnotes. It will be valuable to those pursuing film studies, cultural studies, and Japanese studies...Highly recommended"- Choice, R. Ducharme, Mount Saint Mary's University (Sanford Lakoff CHOICE)About the Author Isolde Standish is a Senior Lecturer in Film and Media Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.