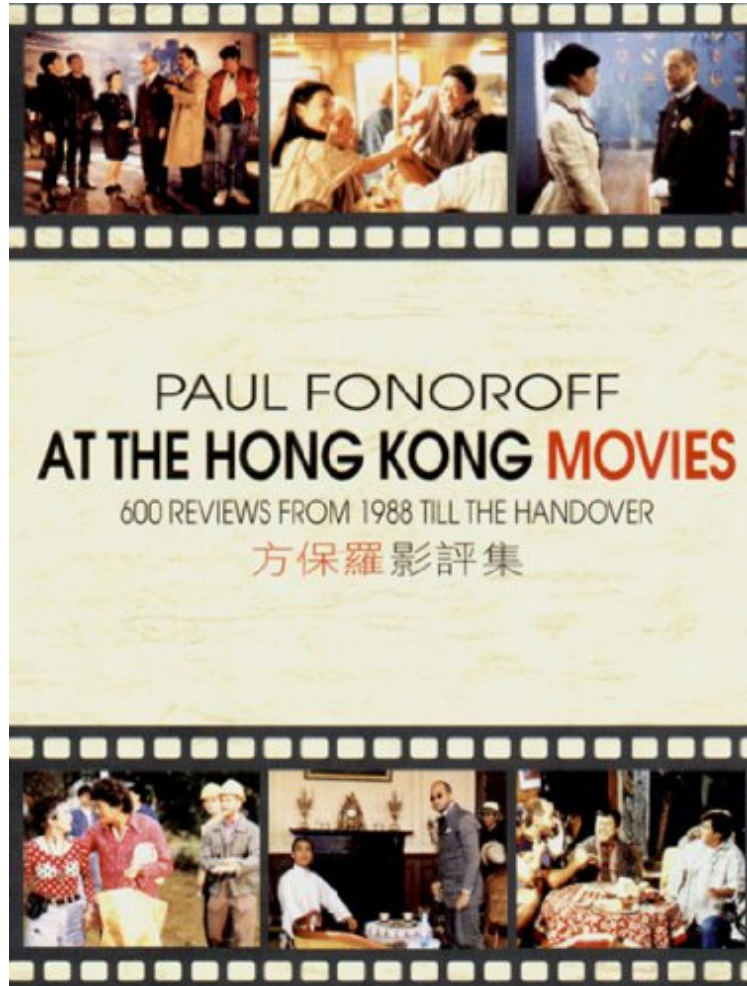


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At the Hong Kong Movies: 600 Reviews from 1988 Till the Handover

Paul Fonoroff

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Paul Fonoroff : At the Hong Kong Movies: 600 Reviews from 1988 Till the Handover before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised At the Hong Kong Movies: 600 Reviews from 1988 Till the Handover:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. he hates HK cinema!By A Customerat a glance this book seems like a treasure for those who love HK movies and want a handy reference. But once you start reading his reviews, you realize that despite his opening claim that he actually loves these movies---he hates them. He's analyzing them like they're supposed to be the next James Joyce of films, but most HK movies are high octane fun. Start looking at the logic of things and these movies tend to fall apart (as do most all movies).He loses the sheer exhilaration of the viewer.So please, someone out there who actually loves these films---put together a comprehensive plot/review of HK

films. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. very comprehensive
By A Customer
Fonoroff's book is very comprehensive, covering if not all, then certainly most, HK films made between 1988 to 1997. He also knows the HK film industry well and it shows in the book. I don't disagree with all the comments below save one. This is NOT a book for the fan or the uninitiated. Fonoroff is perhaps a little too critical to satisfy the ordinary fan and certainly not complimentary enough to attract the uninitiated to the charms of HK cinema. Fonoroff is a film critic and so will be hard on films. However, for a man who has the patience to review 600 HK films, you would think that he must have some love for them. I think that perhaps Fonoroff does love/like HK cinema but you can hardly tell, he compliments too few of them. One comes away feeling that Fonoroff's just watches and reviews them because it's part of the job. I know this is a collection of his reviews written for the paper but I still can't help coming away feeling a little alienated. That said, I still think the book is good, I own it and will recommend it. I appreciate his alternative and objective views which sets this book apart from Logan's "HK Action Cinema" and Hammond's "Sex and Zen and Bullet in the Head." I just don't recommend it to those who are HK film fanatics no matter what. And if you are trying to entice your friend into sampling a different kind of cinema get Hammond's or Logan's book. Now, if you don't need a ra-ra fan book AND would like a reference book then I say get this book. You'll get an insight into how the HK film industry works and you'll get some if not good, then at least alternative, commentary on 600 films.
10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. subtitle: looking down a gweilo nose..
By Andrew Tan
A middlebrow book with highbrow pretensions. I picked this book up at the airport hoping for a nice light read on the plane, and ended up wishing there was an 'EJECT' chute as I was halfway over the Pacific. Rarely have I ever read a book so bristling with enmity and disdain for its subject matter, and with such terrific cultural ignorance one wonders if any research was done other than hanging around the 'western' concessions and expat hangouts. I had thought that such 'colonial' condescension had passed with the times, but apparently it is still alive and well. That is the tone which informs this entire tome and permeates every review therein.. which is terribly unfortunate, given that the author's rather rare and privileged position would have afforded him valuable glimpses behind this once vibrant filmic community (one can always hope for a second flowering, considering the recent output and the success of Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, though not made in HK)... if only one had chosen to see with fresh eyes, rather than attempt to shoehorn every filmic tradition into tired Hollywood conventions of narrative film making. When faced with situations like this, one should give pause to one's examination of the subject at hand, and call into question the yardstick which is being used to take its measure. Also MOST notable for missing the boat on Wong Kar Wai.

Paul Fonoroff, one of Hong Kong's leading movie critics, has compiled 600 of his highly-personal reviews from the last golden age of Hong Kong cinema into this easy-to-use volume for scholars, movie buffs and Honk Kong aficionados alike.'

About the Author
A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Paul Fonoroff studied Chinese at Brown University and then earned a master's degree in cinema at the University of Southern California. After researching Chinese cinema at Beijing University, he moved to Hong Kong in 1983, where he is film critic of the South China Morning Post and host of movie-related television programs in Cantonese, Mandarin and English with viewers from Singapore to Mongolia. His previous book, *Silver Light, A Pictorial History of Hong Kong Cinema 1920-1970*, showcased his spectacular collection of Hong Kong film memorabilia. Belying the old adage about critics, Paul has also acted in a dozen Hong Kong films.