



Small Town America In Film

L Darling-Hammond



Small Town America In Film:

Small-town America in Film Emanuel Levy,1991 Small-Town America Robert Wuthnow,2015-05-26 A revealing examination of small town life More than thirty million Americans live in small out of the way places Many of them could have joined the vast majority of Americans who live in cities and suburbs They could live closer to more lucrative careers and convenient shopping a wider range of educational opportunities and more robust health care But they have opted to live differently In Small Town America we meet factory workers shop owners retirees teachers clergy and mayors residents who show neighborliness in small ways but who also worry about everything from school closings and their children s futures to the ups and downs of the local economy Drawing on more than seven hundred in depth interviews in hundreds of towns across America and three decades of census data Robert Wuthnow shows the fragility of community in small towns He covers a host of topics including the symbols and rituals of small town life the roles of formal and informal leaders the social role of religious congregations the perception of moral and economic decline and the myriad ways residents in small towns make sense of their own lives Wuthnow also tackles difficult issues such as class and race abortion homosexuality and substance abuse Small Town America paints a rich panorama of individuals who reside in small communities finding that for many people living in a small town is an important part of self identity

American Small-Town Fiction, 1940-1960 Nathanael T. Booth,2019-01-10 In literature and popular culture small town America is often idealized as distilling the national spirit Does the myth of the small town conceal deep seated reactionary tendencies or does it contain the basis of a national re imagining During the period between 1940 and 1960 America underwent a great shift in self mythologizing that can be charted through representations of small towns Authors like Henry Bellamann and Grace Metalious continued the tradition of Sherwood Anderson in showing the small town by extension America itself profoundly warping the souls of its citizens Meanwhile Ray Bradbury Toshio Mori and Ross Lockridge Jr sought to identify the small town s potential for growth away from the shadows cast by World War II toward a more inclusive democratic future Examined together these works are key to understanding how mid 20th century America refashioned itself in light of a new postwar order and how the literary small town both obscures and reveals contradictions at the heart of the American experience

Small Town America in Film Emanuel Levy,1994-08-01 *Movie Towns and Sitcom Suburbs* Stephen Rowley,2015-10-21 Media depictions of community are enormously influential on wider popular opinion about how people would like to live In this study Rowley examines depictions of ideal communities in Hollywood films and television and explores the implications of attempts to build real world counterparts to such imagined places

The Columbia Companion to American History on Film Peter C. Rollins,2004-03-24 American history has always been an irresistible source of inspiration for filmmakers and today for good or ill most Americans sense of the past likely comes more from Hollywood than from the works of historians In important films such as The Birth of a Nation 1915 Roots 1977 Apocalypse Now 1979 and Saving Private Ryan 1998 how much is

entertainment and how much is rooted in historical fact In *The Columbia Companion to American History on Film* more than seventy scholars consider the gap between history and Hollywood They examine how filmmakers have presented and interpreted the most important events topics eras and figures in the American past often comparing the film versions of events with the interpretations of the best historians who have explored the topic Divided into eight broad categories Eras Wars and Other Major Events Notable People Groups Institutions and Movements Places Themes and Topics and Myths and Heroes the volume features extensive cross references a filmography of discussed and relevant films notes and a bibliography of selected historical works on each subject *The Columbia Companion to American History on Film* is also an important resource for teachers with extensive information for research or for course development appropriate for both high school and college students Though each essay reflects the unique body of film and print works covering the subject at hand every essay addresses several fundamental questions What are the key films on this topic What sources did the filmmaker use and how did the film deviate or remain true to its sources How have film interpretations of a particular historical topic changed and what sorts of factors technological social political historiographical have affected their evolution Have filmmakers altered the historical record with a view to enhancing drama or to enhance the truth of their putative message

The American Midwest in Film and Literature Adam R. Ochonicky, 2021-12-22 A critical overview of the evolution contestation and fragmentation of the Midwest's symbolic and often contradictory meanings in American culture How do works from film and literature *Sister Carrie* *Native Son* *Meet Me in St Louis* *Halloween* and *A History of Violence* for example imagine reify and reproduce Midwestern identity And what are the repercussions of such regional narratives and images circulating in American culture In *The American Midwest in Film and Literature* *Nostalgia* *Violence* and *Regionalism* Adam R. Ochonicky provides a critical overview of the evolution contestation and fragmentation of the Midwest's symbolic and often contradictory meanings Using the frontier writings of Frederick Jackson Turner as a starting point this book establishes a succession of Midwestern filmic and literary texts stretching from the late 19th century through the beginning of the 21st century and argues that the manifold properties of nostalgia have continually transformed popular understandings and ideological uses of the Midwest's place identity Ochonicky identifies three primary modes of nostalgia at play across a set of textual objects the projection of nostalgia onto physical landscapes and into the cultural sphere nostalgic spatiality nostalgia as a cultural force that regulates behaviors identities and appearances nostalgic violence and the progressive potential of nostalgia to generate an acknowledgment and possible rectification of ways in which the flawed past negatively affects the present nostalgic atonement While developing these new conceptions of nostalgia Ochonicky reveals how an under examined area of regional study has received critical attention throughout the histories of American film and literature as well as in related materials and discourses From the closing of the Western frontier to the polarized political and cultural climate of the 21st century this book demonstrates how film and literature have been and continue to be vital forums for illuminating the

complex interplay of regionalism and nostalgia Ochonicky presents an important reading of how nostalgia shapes the Midwest in the American imagination as a place of identity and violence Past and present slip in this compelling and well researched approach to the workings of contemporary culture Vera Dika author of *Recycled Culture in Contemporary Art and Film The Use of Nostalgia* By centering the concept of region Adam Ochonicky provides an insightful and refreshing reading of American popular culture In texts ranging from Richard Wright s *Native Son* to John Carpenter s *Halloween* Ochonicky demonstrates the complex terrain of the Midwest in our cultural imaginary and the diverse memories and meanings we project upon it Kendall R Phillips author of *A Place of Darkness The Rhetoric of Horror in Early American Cinema* Syracuse University

The Chameleon Effect Dietmar Froehlich, 2018-04-09 Architecture and film have many things in common Film narratives are embedded in scenes that visually support the story Sometimes architecture even performs the role of an actor Conversely film with its multifaceted changing atmospheres reveals new layers of architecture which outside the cinema would remain concealed In conclusion film as a mass medium influences the way architecture is perceived and its image in society Since the beginning of cinema architecture has formed a symbiosis with film With its systematic analysis this book offers a scientifically researched history of mutual influence starting with filmography as a typology of well known film sets through to the description of the chameleon effect between film and architecture

Children and Childhood in the Works of Stephen King Debbie Olson, 2020-10-06 This unique and timely collection examines childhood and the child character throughout Stephen King s works from his early novels and short stories through film adaptations to his most recent publications King s use of child characters within the framework of horror or of horrific childhood raises questions about adult expectations of children childhood the American family child agency and the nature of fear and terror for or by children The ways in which King presents complicates challenges or terrorizes children and notions of childhood provide a unique lens through which to examine American culture including both adult and social anxieties about children and childhood across the decades of King s works

The American City in the Cinema James A. Clapp, 2013-06-30 The American city and the American movie industry grew up together in the early decades of the twentieth century making film an ideal medium through which to better understand urban life Exploiting the increasing popularity of large metropolitan cities and urban lifestyle movies chronicled the city and the stories it generated In this volume urbanist James A Clapp explores the reciprocal relationship between the city and the cinema within the dimensions of time and space A variety of themes and actualizations have been repeated throughout the history of the cinema including the roles of immigrants women small towns family farms and suburbia and urban childhoods family values violent crime politics and dystopic futures Clapp examines the different ways in which the city has been characterized as well as how it has been portrayed as a character itself Some of the films discussed include *Metropolis* *King Kong* *West Side Story* *It s a Wonderful Life* *American Beauty* *Rebel without a Cause* *American Graffiti* *Blade Runner* *Gangs of New York* *The Untouchables* *LA Confidential* *Sunrise* *Crash* *American History X*

Breakfast at Tiffany's The Deer Hunter and many more This work will be enjoyed by urban specialists moviegoers and those interested in American cultural and film studies

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