

British Film

This book explores British cinema in relation to its social, political, and cultural contexts. Each chapter deals with a specific topic and includes close readings of key films from different historical periods. Topics include realism, expressionism, popular cinema, film and theater, sexuality and gender, comedy, class and ideology, heritage film, and diasporic cinema. Demonstrating the richness and variety of a national cinema that has traditionally struggled to define itself between the paradigms of Hollywood popular film and European art cinema, *British Film* also addresses the problematic concept of “national character,” as it has been applied in studies of national cinemas and cultures, and the increasing pressure on all of these ideas in the age of globalization. Designed for the general reader, this volume is suitable for use as a textbook, providing comprehensive coverage of British cinema and detailed discussion of specific films that can be used in tandem with screenings.

Jim Leach is a professor in the Department of Communications, Popular Culture, and Film at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. The author of a volume on Canadian filmmaker Claude Jutra, he has published widely on Canadian and European cinema and cultural theory.

National Film Traditions

General Editor

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National Film Traditions examines the cinematic heritages of Great Britain, Italy, Russia, India, China, Japan, and Australia, from their origins in the silent film era to the present. Relating film production in these countries to the changing social, political, and cultural contexts in which they were created, volumes in this series will also analyze the problematic concepts of nation and nationalism, and their impact on cinema. Designed for use in undergraduate and graduate courses, volumes in this series will include in-depth readings of paradigmatic films, as well as filmographies, videographies, and selected bibliographies.

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