A Companion to the Action Film
James Kendrick (Editor)

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DESCRIPTION

An authoritative guide to the action-packed film genre

With 24 incisive, cutting-edge contributions from esteemed scholars and critics, A Companion to the Action Film provides an authoritative and in-depth guide to this internationally popular and wide-ranging genre. As the first major anthology on the action film in more than a decade, the volume offers insights into the genre’s historical development, explores its production techniques and visual poetics, and provides reflections on the numerous social, cultural, and political issues it has and continues to embody.

A Companion to the Action Film offers original research and critical analysis that examines the iconic characteristics of the genre, its visual aesthetics, and its narrative traits; considers the impact of major directors and stars on the genre’s evolution; puts the action film in dialogue with various technologies and other forms of media such as graphic novels and television; and maps out new avenues of critical study for the future. This important resource:

• Offers a definitive guide to the action film
• Contains insightful contributions from a wide range of international film experts and scholars
• Reviews the evolution of the genre from the silent era to today’s age of digital blockbusters
• Offers nuanced commentary and analysis of socio-cultural issues such as race, nationality, and gender in action films

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Written for scholars, teachers and students in film studies, film theory, film history, genre studies, and popular culture, *A Companion to the Action Film* is an essential guide to one of international cinema’s most important, popular, and influential genres.

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**JAMES KENDRICK** is Professor of Film & Digital Media at Baylor University. He is the author of several books on cinema, including *Darkness in the Bliss-Out: A Reconsideration of the Films of Steven Spielberg* (2014); *Film Violence: History, Ideology, Genre* (2009); and *Hollywood Bloodshed: Violence in 1980s American Cinema* (2009).

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