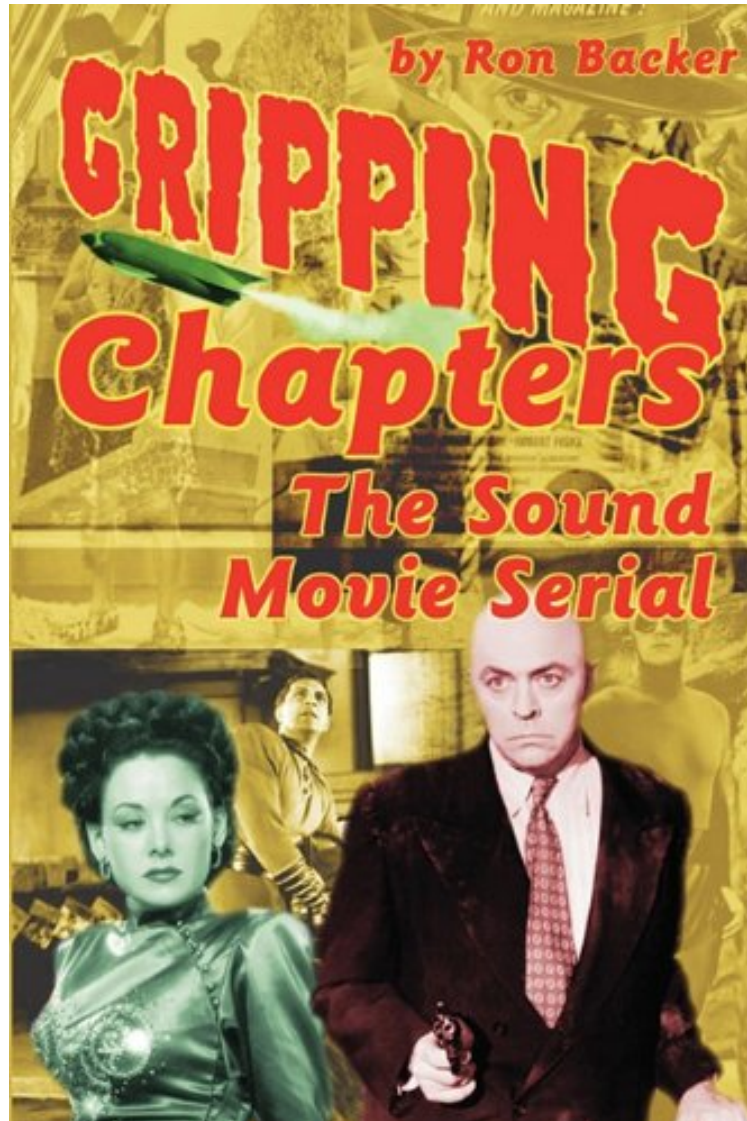


[Download] Gripping Chapters: The Sound Movie Serial

Gripping Chapters: The Sound Movie Serial

Ron Backer

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#2510208 in Books 2010-05-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .87 x 5.98l, 1.25 #File Name: 1593935315428 pages | File size: 63.Mb

Ron Backer : Gripping Chapters: The Sound Movie Serial before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gripping Chapters: The Sound Movie Serial:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Intimate, Enthusiastic Appreciation of SerialsBy Terry SundayAlthough I don't have a huge collection of serials--about a dozen or so--I'm a big fan of them, especially science fiction, action/adventure and superhero ones, such as "King of the Rocket Men," "Terry and the Pirates" and "The Adventures of Captain Marvel." But simply watching and enjoying the serials was not enough for me. As usual when I get interested in something, I tried to find out as much about the topic as I could. I wanted to know everything

about serials--how and when they were made, who produced and directed them, which actors played which parts, how they did the stunts, what went on "behind the scenes," and much more. That's where Ron Backer's "Gripping Chapters: The Sound Movie Serial" comes in. Obviously a labor of love written by a true fan, "Gripping Chapters" pretty much reveals nearly everything anyone would want to know about this unique American cinematic art form. Mr. Backer essentially "deconstructs" serials in his very detailed, informative and fast-paced narrative. From analyzing their sources (radio programs, comic books, short stories, whatever) through their plot structures to their casts to how and where the studios used stock footage, there are few aspects of serials that Mr. Backer does not cover, always with real enthusiasm and often with droll humor. Quite a bit of "Gripping Chapters" focuses on the serials' "cliffhangers" (or, more correctly in many cases, "cliffovers") that were a hallmark of the genre, wherein the hero or heroine seems certain to die at the end of one episode only to be miraculously rescued from his or her fate at the beginning of the next. He groups "cliffhangers" into categories, such as literal cliffhangers (which are surprisingly rare), car crashes, plane crashes, waterfall perils, dynamited bridges, etc.--and analyzes them in great detail using actual serial episodes to make his points. I would have liked to see more "behind the scenes" stories and details about how the stunts were performed, subjects that "Gripping Chapters" barely touches on, but given the time that has passed since these serials were made, perhaps that's asking too much--or maybe a follow-on volume will address these topics. In any event, the book sparkles throughout with well-chosen black-and-white still pictures and images of lobby cards, and there is a good index along with several useful appendices. The only down side that I found to "Gripping Chapters"--and it is my failing, not the book's--is that I have never seen, and probably never will see, many of the obscure serials that Mr. Backer covers in his sweeping survey. The motion picture studios produced hundreds of serials in their heyday, and very few seem to have escaped Mr. Backer's devoted attentions. I will seek out some of the ones I don't already own, but many of them, as best I can tell, are not currently available on DVD or in any other format. Still, through Mr. Backer's exceptionally approachable tribute to this lost art form, I definitely have a much greater appreciation for the ones I have seen, and I will view them with newfound knowledge of their intimate details when I watch them again. I recommend "Gripping Chapters" highly to all serial fans who want to learn more about the genre.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book Very Useful
By Joel Bowers
Boy Ron Backer really gets it right! There's no focus on a single serial or the movie company that made it. This story is the result of many years of research. And it's told from a fan's viewpoint. Mr. Backer discusses a number of things about serials. Many different types of cliffhangers number of chapters length of chapters cheat cliffhangers and even up and coming actors/actresses who achieved greater fame later on. Also chapter openings recap footage narration so much more. If you're a serial lover (like me!) you'll love this book!
8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Serial and a Half
By J. Kadner
Little about the writers, little about studio tit-bits, and nothing much about working the stunts and tricks -- but oh, boy, what a read! Stuff you don't know and that isn't covered elsewhere, pictures other books don't have, and written obviously by an enthusiastic fan. Worth the time, the money, and the reading.... and good for references with detailed indexes, for later.

Gripping Chapters is much more than a history of the sound motion picture serial. Here you'll find all of the sources for sound movie serials, including comic strips, comic books, the pulps, novels and radio shows. There are chapters analyzing the cliffhanger endings of serial episodes, with information focusing on cheat cliffhanger endings, such as time expansion cheats, "survived through it cheats," and re-shot footage cheats, as well as a study of some of the cleverest and most exciting cliffhanger endings of all time. Other topics include serial sequels and series, the stars who appeared in serials, prolific contributors to serials, and stock footage and bloopers, plus an appreciation of three very special serials: The Phantom Empire, Flash Gordon and Zorro's Black Whip.

"A treasure trove of material that covers just about every facet of serial production...a great resource for any serial fan." Blood 'N' Thunder Magazine
About the Author
Ron Backer is an attorney who has previously written for law reviews and other legal publications. An avid fan of both mysteries and movies, he lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is also the author of Mystery Movie Series of 1930s Hollywood and Mystery Movie Series of 1940s Hollywood.