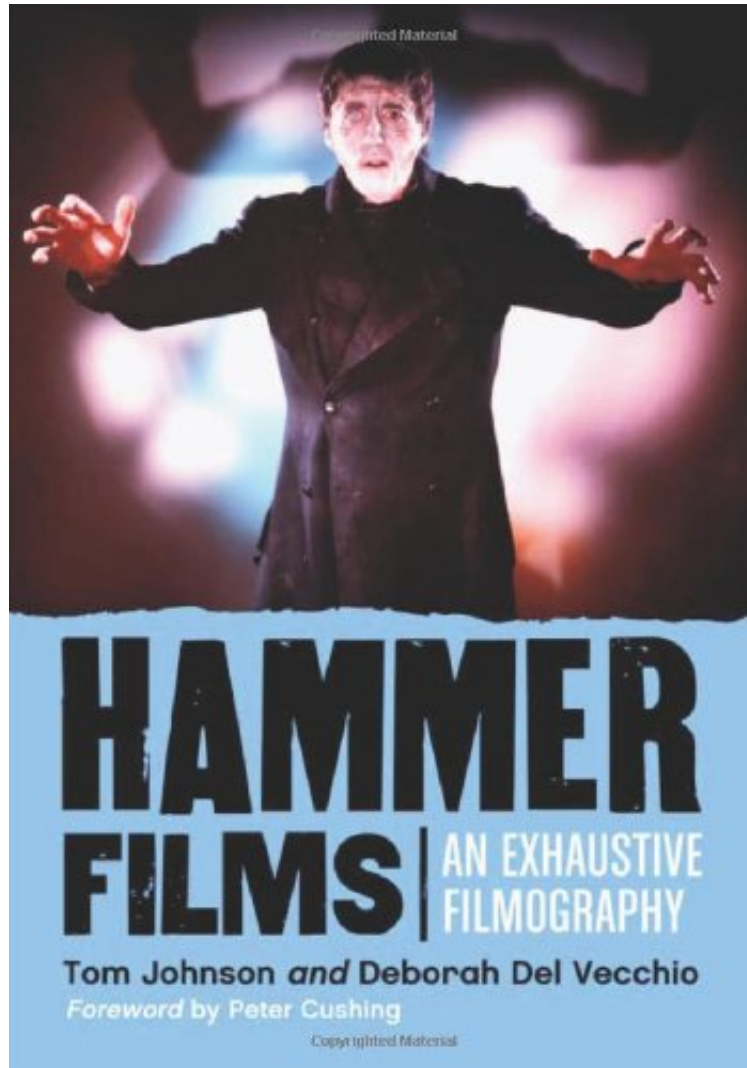


Hammer Films: An Exhaustive Filmography

Tom Johnson, Deborah Del Vecchio
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Tom Johnson, Deborah Del Vecchio : Hammer Films: An Exhaustive Filmography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hammer Films: An Exhaustive Filmography:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An interesting and informative resource for Hammer fansBy Z HayesI've been a long-time fan of Hammer Films' productions of horror movies, many of which are deemed classics today. It has only been in the last year or two that I've become more interested in the history behind the films, the cast, the production, and other pertinent information that helps me appreciate each film anew. This book does the job nicely; it may not be encyclopedic in its depth of material covered, yet provides enough background information as to enable me to understand each film better.Originally published in 1996 (this is the 2012 reprint), the book contains a

foreword by one of my all-time favorite classic horror actors, Peter Cushing, who is as always, humble and a gentleman, praising his friend and long-time colleagues, Christopher Lee and Terence Fisher. I also learned in this introduction that Cushing had requested to play the part of the Baron in "The Curse of Frankenstein", a film which would go on to be a box-office success, exceeding all expectations. The book begins with a brief history of Hammer Films/ Exclusive Films, but even though this section is short, it contains many wonderful archival pictures of the stars and key players that made Hammer Films such an iconic institution. I enjoyed looking at Peter Cushing entertaining young fans, Christopher Lee in mummy make-up being fed lunch, and Barbara Shelley joking around. Looking at these old photographs evoked a sense of nostalgia for a time long past, where movie stars were truly special in that unique and indefinable way, retaining an aura of mystique and awe. The films are listed chronologically by year of production, beginning with 1935's "The Public Life of Henry the Ninth", and ending with 1978's "The Lady Vanishes" (though this title is missing in the contents page). The notes on each film follows the following format: cast and crew details, a brief synopsis of the film, commentary on aspects of the film that might interest Hammerphiles which includes lots of fascinating trivia. For example, the commentary on "The Two Faces of Dr. Jekyll" was illuminating and echoes my own feelings about the film, "although the film contains little visual horror, its plot elements are morally repellent." This is exactly how I felt about the film, the horror was not so much graphic as thematic and deep within the characters' portrayals. It was certainly a different sort of film for its time. Oh, and I learned that Christopher Lee, the formidable Count Dracula himself, did not like snakes :-). In addition, there is also a chapter titled "Short Subjects" which briefly covers the featurettes, both in BW and color that accompanied the feature films. Hammer Films produced more than 75 of these featurettes between 1935 and 1961, but the listing in the book is not complete. There is also a listing of Hammer made-for-television shows which comprise Hammer House of Horror (consisting of 13 episodes) and Hammer House of Mystery and Suspense (comprising another thirteen episodes). Now, the book not only contains a listing of all of Hammer's horror classics, but also movies of other genres such as spy films, the "Psycho" series such as "Taste of Fear" (known as "Scream of Fear" in the United States), and more. This is a treasure trove of information and BW photographs (featuring movie stills, the stars, posters, and more) that can be dipped into again and again when one feels the urge to get a good old classic dose of Hammer! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hammer Films Exhaustive Filmography HIGHLY Recommended Cinema History Resource! By MGB "Hammer Films: An Exhaustive Filmography" by Tom Johnson and Deborah Del Vecchio is not only a first class filmography resource of all Hammer films made between 1935 and 1975, but because it is packed with behind-the-scenes stories, production photos, and reviews of every film the studio made over those 40 years, it's also a fun and engaging read for anyone who has ever just enjoyed a Hammer movie. The legendary Peter Cushing provides a warm welcome in a foreword with screenwriter Jimmy Sangster and composer James Bernard contributing still more delights via an introduction and an afterword, respectively. And then there are all the movies, each one listing full production credits and release dates, story summary, memorable behind-the-scenes experiences, and finally critical receptions. Pictures and posters have been generously reprinted on most pages to supplement the text. In addition, there is even a chapter dedicated to Hammer television productions made between 1968 and 1984. The reading experience, whether going from page to page or jumping from one favorite film to another, is wonderfully informative and engaging and entertaining and I cannot recommend it highly enough to anyone who has ever enjoyed "A Hammer Film Production." 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By david Everything you want to know about Hammer movies

Though best known for its horror films, Hammer produced a wide variety of movies in many genres. The British studio was famous for its exciting stories and expert action--all on very small budgets and short shooting schedules. From *The Public Life of Henry the Ninth* (1935) to *The Lady Vanishes* (1978), this is the definitive work on Hammer's 165 films. Complete filmographic data are provided for each film, including release dates in both the United Kingdom and the United States, running time, length, distributor, complete cast and production credits, and alternate titles. These data are followed by an extensive plot synopsis, including contemporary critical commentary and behind-the-scenes information from many of the players and crew members.

"excellent...the authors do an amazing job...impressive"--Classic Images; "an encyclopedic wealth of information...an important research tool"--Journal of Popular Culture; "there is a lot of love for Hammer Films here, and a lot of good research, which is as it should be, and while there are many books on Hammer--few have such a fine eye for detail. Thus, this is a valuable reference work, and a good read in its own right"--Destructive Music; "excellent"--Psychotronic; "This is a great reference book which I'm sure you'll want to add to your collection"--SF Crowsnest. About the Author Tom Johnson, author of several books on horror cinema, taught and coached cross country and track for 30 years. He is still involved in the school system and lives in Shillington, Pennsylvania. Deborah Del Vecchio is a freelance writer in New Jersey.