

BLOOMSBURY ACADEMIC

JULY-DECEMBER 2025

KEY TITLES

MARVEL AGE OF COMICS

EXPLORE THE STORIES
BEHIND THE LEGENDS



9798765131800



9798765131688



9798765137543

A new series from Marvel and Bloomsbury
COMING AUTUMN 2025

MARVEL

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BLOOMSBURY 

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Introduction



As we look towards the latter half of 2025, I am struck by the growing breadth and strength of our trade list. From Joanna Lillis' dynamic and revealing examination of one of the world's most secretive countries, Uzbekistan, *Silk Mirage* and Eleanor Houghton's *Charlotte Brontë's Life Through Clothes*, a unique, beautifully written exploration of Charlotte Brontë's clothing and its meaning to her at various stages of her life, our titles present the very best of academically rigorous research and expertise to the widest possible readership. This list will be further bolstered by the recent acquisition of Roman & Littlefield whose titles will be included in the next edition of this catalogue, so do look out for those.

Beyond these individual titles, here in Bloomsbury's Academic Division we're abuzz with excitement about the upcoming launch of *Marvel: Age of Comics* series. Inaugurating with three titles on 13th November: *Daredevil: Born Again* by Chris Ryall, *The Mighty Avengers vs. the 1970s* by Paul Cornell and *Doctor Strange: A Decade of Dark Magic* by Stuart Moore. The series is set to explore the history of over 85 years of Marvel Comics written by great writers who also happen to be comic book fans. Titles range from deep dives into a singular comic storyline, notable runs and works produced by creators who have made a special contribution to Marvel stories, the origins and evolution of a particular character, or social and progressive themes and historical moments that have been reflected in Marvel Comics, blending personal narrative with a look back at comics history through the decades. They're perfect for both dedicated and new comic book fans alike and we can't wait to bring them to market!

Additionally, as we continue our 10th anniversary *Object Lessons*, I'd be amiss not to mention the new titles publishing in the series: *Videotape* by Oana Godeanu-Kenworthy, *Metronome* by Matthew H. Birkhold, *Microphone* by Ralph Jones, *Taco* by Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado, *Cat* by Rebecca van Laer and *Straitjacket* by Stassa Edwards. Quite the selection!

Lastly, as the Christmas season beckons, I'm delighted to see a volume in the *BFI Film Classics* series on *Die Hard* by Jon Lewis. Wherever you fall on whether it is a Christmas film or not debate (I vote the former), it's a worthy edition and a great watch all through-out the year.

Happy reading!

Matthew Emery, UK Academic and Professional Sales Director

Original Non-Fiction

The Kennedys at Cape Cod, 1944

The Summer That Changed Everything

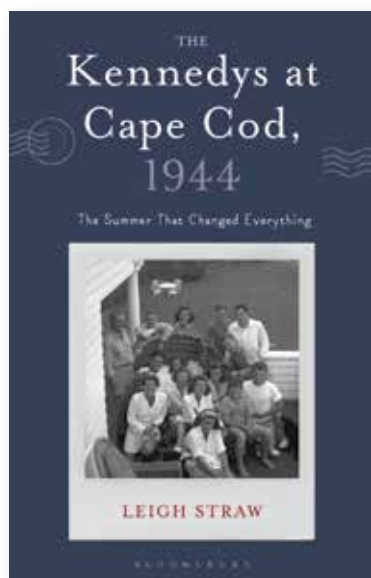
Leigh Straw

The Kennedys considered their home in Hyannis Port, Cape Cod, ‘The big white house’, to be a haven from their busy lives. Yet in the summer of 1944, against the backdrop of WWII, the events that unfolded there changed the family forever.

Beginning in the May of that year, *The Kennedys at Cape Cod 1944* paints an intimate picture of those few months. As the younger Kennedy children and their parents settled into their summer home, it follows the family drama that unfolded. From the scandal of the eldest daughter, Kick, marrying William ‘Billy’ Cavendish, and the eldest son, Joe Jr’s, dangerous and secret bombing missions over Europe, to second son Jack’s quiet recovery from injury sustained in the line of duty, younger daughter Rosemary’s conspicuous absence and the youngest son, Ted’s, loneliness, it explores the innermost hopes, fears and anxieties of each Kennedy. Following these events as they played out over the summer of 1944, it culminates with the event that would change them forever: the tragic death of Joe Jr.

Offering a close account of the months leading up to this momentous moment, *The Kennedys at Cape Cod 1944* is an unparalleled account of how the family experienced and responded to this tragedy, which was later described as a ‘turn in the road’ for their family. The summer of 1944 changed all their lives, and in propelling the second brother, Jack Kennedy, into the political limelight, changed the course of American political history.

Leigh Straw is Associate Professor of History at Notre Dame University, Australia, where she teaches in Australian, European and modern US history. She is the author of several books including *The Petticoat Parade: Madam Monnier and the Roe Street Brothels* (2021) for which she was joint winner of the 2022 Margaret Medcalf Award for Excellence in Research and Referencing.



07 August 2025

240 pages

Images: 15 black and white illustrations

Hardback

9781350512580

£20.00

Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic



02 October 2025

368 pages

Images: 45 black and white illustrations

Hardback

9781350026469

£25.00

Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic

“I Think of You Constantly with Love”

The Letters of Ludwig Wittgenstein and Ben Richards, 1946-1951

Edited by Alfred Schmidt
and Gabriel Citron

Foreword by Ray Monk

Ludwig Wittgenstein, one of the greatest philosophers of the 20th century, met Ben Richards, a medical student, in autumn 1945. It was the beginning of a deep and tempestuous relationship which lasted until Wittgenstein's death. Their correspondence starts in the summer of 1946 and consists of more than 370 letters, notes, telegrams and photographs. The final letter was sent a week before Wittgenstein died in April 1951.

Often defined by his arrogance, difficulty and critical nature of others, Wittgenstein's letters to Richards give us another window onto his character. Their letters manifest an emotional closeness which is remarkable and unparalleled in Wittgenstein's voluminous correspondence. They leave no doubt that Ben Richards was Wittgenstein's closest friend in these last years of his life – indeed, perhaps the greatest love of his life.

Their letters are further proof of the extent to which Wittgenstein's life was inseparable from his philosophy. They are an opportunity to come closer to understanding the work of this intellectual giant, telling us more about the values and beliefs of one of the 20th century's greatest thinkers.

Alfred Schmidt is Assistant Director-General of the Austrian National Library.

Gabriel Citron is Assistant Professor of Religion at Princeton University, USA.

100 Cult Films: The Sequel

Ernest Mathijs and Xavier Mendik

In this follow up to their *100 Cult Films*, Ernest Mathijs and Xavier Mendik provide a guide to one hundred more incredible films from the history and present of cult cinema around the world, from the 1911 Italian silent *Dante's Inferno* to Jordan Peele's 2017 horror classic *Get Out*.

Their richly-illustrated guide addresses the work of filmmakers including Stanley Kubrick, Paul Verhoeven, Julien Temple, Ana Lily Amirpour, Lizzie Borden, Rob Reiner and John Carpenter, and movies from countries ranging from Iran to Peru, South Korea to Sweden, Japan to the USA. The films represent genres including sci-fi, romance, horror, vampire, comedy and action, and in their subject matter and through the debates (and sometimes controversies) that surrounds them raise issues about identity, home, belonging, exoticism, censorship and what it means to be 'weird'.

By presenting 100 films that confirm and interrogate the notion of what makes a film a 'cult film', *100 Cult Films: The Sequel* reinvigorates the debate about cult cinema while affirming its foundations in today's volatile and vibrant cultural climate.

Ernest Mathijs is Professor of Film Studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. He has written and edited books on *The Cinema of David Cronenberg* (2008), *The Cinema of the Low Countries* (2004), *The Lord of the Rings* (2006, 2007) and *John Fawcett's Ginger Snaps* (2013).

Xavier Mendik is Professor of Cult Cinema Studies at Birmingham City University, UK. He is the author, editor and co-editor of nine volumes in cult film including *Bodies of Desire* and *Bodies in Distress: The Golden Age of Italian Cult Cinema 1970-1985* (2015), *Peep Shows*, *Cult Film and the Cine-Erotic* (2011). He has also produced and directed eight documentary commissions on global cult film cultures that have been premiered at leading international film festivals.



16 October 2025

256 pages

Images: 100 black and white and colour illustrations

Paperback

9781839023026

£19.99

Imprint: British Film Institute



13 November 2025
 272 pages
 Hardback
 9781350292468
 £20.00
 Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic

Silk Mirage

Through the Looking Glass in Uzbekistan

Joanna Lillis

Silk Mirage is a compelling portrait of Uzbekistan, a country at the heart of the ancient Silk Road and now the centre of a power struggle between reformers and reactionaries for the soul of this strategic land in Central Asia.

In 2016, the long-ruling dictator Islam Karimov – one of the last Soviet-era strongmen – died, sparking a period of transformation under his successor, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which became known as the ‘Uzbek Spring’. But, as investigative journalist Joanna Lillis shows, spring has struggled to break through in one of the world’s most repressive and totalitarian states.

As one of the few western journalists with access to Uzbekistan and with over two decades of experience covering the country, Lillis travels deep into the heart of the Karimov regime, portraying all the excesses and atrocities that made it such a brutal dictatorship. She also penetrates the system that replaced it, exploring how life has changed for Uzbeks under Mirziyoyev’s rule – and how it has not. A tale of both reform and repression, this book illustrates the challenges of dragging a country out of dictatorship.

Lillis weaves in the extraordinary stories of ordinary people: from politicians to former political prisoners, from journalists to human rights crusaders, from entrepreneurs to environmentalists, from artists to architects, from silk makers to carpet weavers.

Conjuring up Uzbekistan as a place full of life and loss, *Silk Mirage* tells the stories of courageous people who probe to find the cracks in an authoritarian regime through which the light gets in.

Joanna Lillis is a Kazakhstan-based journalist reporting on Central Asia whose work has featured in the *Guardian*, *The Economist*, the *Independent*, *Eurasianet*, *Foreign Policy* and *POLITICO*. She is the author of *Dark Shadows: Inside the Secret World of Kazakhstan* (2018).

The Godot Diaries

Behind the Scenes of Beckett's Play

Lucian Msamati

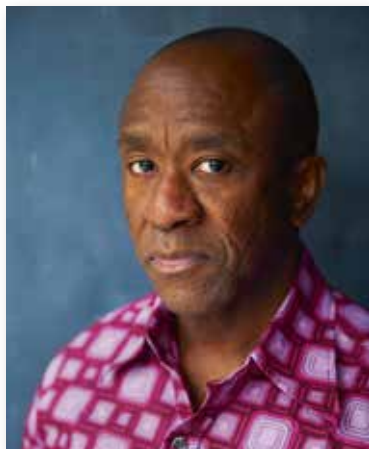
From receiving the call offering him the role of Estragon to the opening night at London's Theatre Royal Haymarket, Lucian Msamati's rehearsal diary enables us to better understand Beckett's play from the inside and, crucially, from an actor's perspective.

This book gives us a behind-the-scenes perspective on this play from audition to script-reading to polished performance.

With a cast made up of other seminal actors Ben Whishaw, Jonathan Slinger and Tom Edden, James Macdonald's production of *Waiting for Godot* sheds light on so many of the play's themes and preoccupations, while bringing a new lens in casting a Black actor in the role of Estragon.

We join Lucian Msamati as he embarks on the journey from page to stage, never knowing what the next day will bring and sharing in revelation after revelation as he revisits this play as an actor 20 years after first reading it.

Lucian Msamati is a celebrated actor, writer and director. As an actor in TV and film, he has appeared in *Ultimate Force*, *Spooks*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *Doctor Who*, *Death in Paradise*, *Luther*, *The Hollow Crown (Richard II)*, *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, *The International*, *Game of Thrones*, *Gangs of London*, *Black Earth Rising*, *His Dark Materials*, *Taboo* and *Conclave*. On stage, he has appeared in a large number of productions at venues including the National Theatre, West End, RSC, Almeida, Kiln, Royal Court, Shakespeare's Globe and American Repertory Theater, and notably was the first Black actor to play Iago in *Othello*. He is the author of *Acting* in the National Theatre Backstage Guides series (Methuen Drama, 2025).



13 November 2025

240 pages

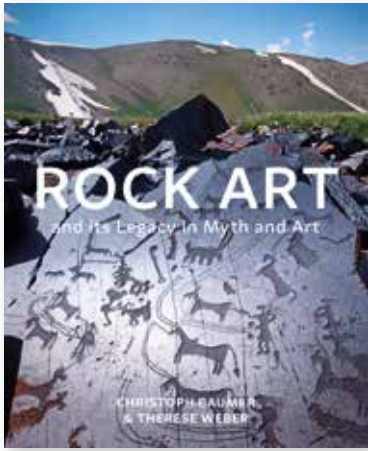
Images: 16 colour illustrations

Hardback

9781350535961

£20.00

Imprint: Methuen Drama



30 November 2025
 392 pages
 Images: 300 colour
 Hardback
 9780755650446
 £30.00
 Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic

Rock Art and Its Legacy in Myth and Art

Petroglyphs from Eurasia, Arabia and Northern Africa

Christoph Baumer and Therese Weber

Rock art is the oldest artistic expression of mankind. The first creation of these rock carvings (“petroglyphs”) and rock paintings (“pictographs”) by homo-sapiens represented in multiple aspects a real quantum leap in mental performance.

In *Rock Art and Its Legacy in Myth and Art*, renowned explorer Christoph Baumer tells the story of these remarkable wonders of early human imagination, taking in examples from Central Asia and the Caucasus through to Arabia and the Sahara.

Baumer examines petroglyphs created on natural rock surfaces or inside prehistoric caves, by engraving, carving or scratching techniques using lithic or metallic tools and explores their meanings through local myths and legends and ceramic artefacts of the time. Vividly illustrated throughout with 300 colour images, the book celebrates the legacy of these petroglyphs as a means of expression, of communication, of recording events and coded messages, as well as an element within rituals for tens of thousands of years down to the present.

Christoph Baumer – a leading explorer and historian of Central Asia, Tibet and the Caucasus – has written many well-received books in the fields of history, religion, archaeology and travel, including the seminal *History of Central Asia* in four volumes (2012-2018), published by I.B. Tauris. Dr Baumer is President of the Society for the Exploration of EurAsia and a member of the Explorers’ Club, New York, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, London, UK.

Therese Weber is Professor Emerita at the University of Applied Science Muttentz/Basel, Switzerland.

The Cambridge Footlights

A Very British Comedy Institution

Robert Sellers

The Cambridge Footlights, are a unique institution. The world-famous comedy society and its alumni have set the tone of cultural eras from the 1960s to today via shows such as *Beyond the Fringe*, *Monty Python*, *The Goodies*, *Not the Nine O'Clock News* and, more recently, *Peep Show*, *QI* and *The Great British Bake-Off*.

The Footlights has long been a potential portal to fame: talent scouts, especially from the BBC, were in the habit of coming up to Cambridge on the lookout for comedy writers and material. Tracing the personal journeys of its most distinguished members, including Germaine Greer, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Emma Thompson, Richard Ayode, David Mitchell, Robert Webb and Sue Perkins, among many others, the book explores how they got into the club, their contribution and subsequent careers.

Through examining the impact of the Footlights on British popular culture and comedy over the last 60 years, *The Cambridge Footlights*, demonstrates how its farces, musical comedies, pantomimes and the famous May Week revues have both reflected the tastes of the times and served as a 'nursery' for generations of comic writers and performers.

Robert Sellers is the author of over 25 books on subjects such as cinema, theatre, television, music and popular culture. These includes *Raising Laughter: How the Sitcom Kept Britain Smiling in the '70s* (2021), as well as authorized biographies of Oliver Reed, Kenny Everett and Ernie Wise, along with histories of Ealing Studios, Radio 1 and James Bond.



11 December 2025

304 pages

Images: 20 black and white illustrations

Hardback

9781350412187

£25.00

Imprint: Methuen Drama



11 December 2025

352 pages

Images: 50 black and white illustrations

Hardback

9781350514089

£25.00

Imprint: Bloomsbury Visual Arts

Charlotte Brontë's Life Through Clothes

Eleanor Houghton

Nearly 170 years after Charlotte Brontë's death, her story continues to unfold – not through her words, but through the clothes that she wore.

From the cobbled streets of Haworth, to penning the first lines of *Jane Eyre*, to the moment she walked down the aisle with Arthur Bell Nicholls, Brontë's gowns, bonnets, shawls, corsets, and shoes bear silent witness to her life. Renowned Brontë scholar and dress historian Eleanor Houghton brings these garments vividly to life in a groundbreaking biography, revealing the intimate and untold story of a woman who was both fiercely independent and deeply bound by the conventions of her time. Through her wardrobe, we glimpse the world that shaped her – and the one she transcended.

Charlotte's steel-busked corset tells the story of corporate espionage and forbidden love, whilst her highly-embellished, striped, silk dress, shows how she coped with the new-found pressures of fame. When exposed to 21st century technology, a tiny sample of fabric from her 'Thackeray Dress' reveals important innovations of the Industrial Revolution going on around her and a black lace veil, worn after the deaths of her siblings, tangibly conveys how she dealt with repeated familial loss.

Charlotte Brontë's Life Through Clothes centres around key garments that reflect important periods of the author's life. The clothes and accessories are 'read' alongside letters, juvenilia, portraits, self-portraits, novels, fashion plates, magazines and the recollections of those who knew her well. The clothes that once covered her body, some of which still bear the imprint of her foot or the sweat from her pores, here prove themselves to be far more than celebrity curios. Indeed, they are shown to have the power to shatter myths, challenge preconceptions and call forth not just Charlotte Brontë the author, but the real, raw, feeling, thinking, three-dimensional woman.

Eleanor Houghton is an historical costume consultant, writer and illustrator.

Key Series

NEW SERIES

MARVEL AGE OF COMICS

Marvel Age of Comics is a series of concise, affordable, beautifully designed books that explore the history of over 85 years of Marvel Comics.

Books in the series range from deep dives into a singular comic storyline, notable runs and works produced by creators who have made a special contribution to Marvel stories, the origins and evolution of a particular character, or social and progressive themes and historical moments that have been reflected in Marvel Comics.

Written by great writers who also happen to be comic book fans, *Marvel Age of Comics* blends personal narrative with a look back at comics history through the decades.

The books are brought to life using curated artwork from the comics and reproduced materials from Marvel's digital archives creating a series that is perfect for both dedicated and new comic book fans alike.



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Daredevil: Born Again

Chris Ryall

In Frank Miller and David Mazzucchelli's *Daredevil: Born Again*, the comic's titular hero has his life destroyed after his most menacing enemy learns his real identity. His attempts to rebuild his life and sanity result in one of the most gripping and impactful super hero storylines of all time.

Released in 1986, the storyline is an extraordinary exploration of what happens when a hero's identity is revealed, and his personal life completely annihilated. We see Daredevil reduced to the lowest depths in the character's history, but we also follow his painstaking path toward redemption.

This entry in *MARVEL AGE OF COMICS* explores *Daredevil: Born Again*'s gorgeous and unique artwork, the lasting impact of its story and art, and how it forever changed the ways super hero characters and their secret identities have functioned since.

Chris Ryall boasts a prolific career in comics as writer, editor, publisher, and historian. Currently the co-founder of Image Comics imprint, Syzygy Publishing and editor-at-large at Abrams ComicArts, Ryall is also the former Chief Creative Officer at IDW Publishing. His co-creations include *Zombies vs Robots*, *Onyx*, *Groom Lake*, *The Hollows*, and *Dreamweaver*. He was an Executive Producer on Netflix's *Locke & Key*. His most recent releases are *The Mighty Marvel Calendar Book*, *Origins of Marvel Comics: The Deluxe Edition*, and *Dread the Halls*. Other 2025 releases include *Megalopolis*: the graphic novel with co-writer Francis Ford Coppola and *Son of Origins of Marvel Comics: The Deluxe Edition*.



13 November 2025

160 pages

Images: 25 colour images

Paperback

9798765131688

£10.99

Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic



13 November 2025
 160 pages
 Images: 25 colour illustrations
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 9798765131800
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 Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic

The Mighty Avengers vs. the 1970s

Paul Cornell

The Avengers was *the* comic book of the 1970s. From Civil Rights to Women's Lib, battles for the soul of America became battles between super heroes.

Writer Stan Lee and artist Jack Kirby co-created the all-star group of six super heroes in September 1963. From there, just three main writers chronicled Earth's Mightiest Heroes in that most turbulent of decades: Roy Thomas, Steve Englehart, and Jim Shooter, each with differing approaches. The Avengers quickly became the pivot around which the Marvel Universe turned. To look back through its issues is to get a crash course in '70s pop culture.

Illustrated with full-color art from this legendary run, Paul Cornell's entry in the new *MARVEL AGE OF COMICS* series explores how the Mighty Avengers became icons during a time of immense change and upheaval.

Paul Cornell has written episodes of *Elementary*, *Doctor Who*, *Primeval*, *Robin Hood* and many other TV series. He has worked for every major comics company on series such as *I Walk With Monsters*, *The Modern Frankenstein*, *Saucer Country*, and *This Damned Band*, as well as runs for Marvel and DC on *Batman and Robin*, *Wolverine* and *Young Avengers*. He is based in the UK.

Doctor Strange: A Decade of Dark Magic

Stuart Moore

Doctor Strange, one of Marvel's most fascinating early characters, began at the hands of co-creators Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, and his ethereal voyages through other dimensions made him an important figure in 1960s culture.

From his first appearance in 1963, Strange captivated a wide range of readers. Over his first ten years, a succession of writers and artists—including Roy Thomas, Gene Colan, Gardner F. Fox, P. Craig Russell, Marie Severin, and notably Steve Englehart and Frank Brunner—expanded on Ditko's original mind-bending concepts.

This entry in the *MARVEL AGE OF COMICS* explores Strange's changing roles as a mystic, super hero, and leader of a chaotic team called the Defenders, and the rise of his popularity, in parallel with the counterculture of the 1960s.

Stuart Moore is a Brooklyn-based writer, book editor, and award-winning comics editor. His recent Marvel projects include *Captain America for Dummies* and the novel *Into the Dark Dimension*. He has also written three volumes of the *New York Times* bestselling series *The Zodiac Legacy*, as well as prose and comics set in the universes of Marvel, DC Comics, *Stargate*, *The Transformers*, *Conan the Barbarian*, *Redwall*, and *Star Trek*.



13 November 2025

160 pages

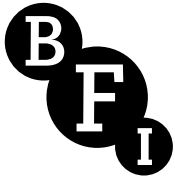
Images: 25 colour images

Paperback

9798765137543

£10.99

Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic



B F I F I L M
C L A S S I C S

“An indispensable part of every cineaste's bookcase” – *Total Film*

“Possibly the most bountiful book series in the history of film criticism.”

– Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Film Comment*

“Magnificently concentrated examples of flowing freeform critical poetry.” – *Uncut*

Celebrating film for over 30 years

The *BFI Film Classics* series introduces, interprets and celebrates landmarks of world cinema. Each volume offers an argument for the film's 'classic' status, together with discussion of its production and reception history, its place within a genre or national cinema, an account of its technical and aesthetic importance, and in many cases, the author's personal response to the film.

Hanyo (The Housemaid)

Youngmin Choe

Hanyo (The Housemaid) is widely regarded as one of the greatest South Korean films of all time. Its director Kim Ko-young, played a formative part in South Korean cinema's "Golden Age" of the 1960s and 1970s and *Hanyo* (The Housemaid), rescued and restored after almost being lost, is his masterpiece.

Youngmin Choe argues that *Hanyo* encapsulates the mood of social change in postwar South Korea during the period of tremendous upheaval and rapid transformation. The housemaid – a figure that Kim Ki-young would explore repeatedly throughout his career – is a monstrous embodiment of the destructive desires of capitalism, which recklessly eroded the foundations of tradition. Youngmin Choe insists that the film's enduring legacy both due to its uncanny aesthetics and - though it certainly was not intended to be an explicitly feminist film - in the questions it raises about class mobility, gender oppression and women's work.

Youngmin Choe is Associate Professor of Korean Cinema and Visual Culture at the University of Southern California, USA.



04 September 2025

104 pages

Images: 60 black and white illustrations

Paperback

9781839025860

£12.99

Imprint: British Film Institute

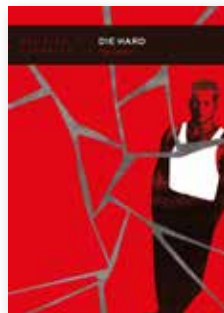
Die Hard

Jon Lewis

Upon its release, John McTiernan's *Die Hard* (1988) was met with immense commercial and critical success; breaking the \$100 million mark at the box office in its first run, and resulting in four Academy Award nominations.

Lewis considers the film's evocation of post-Vietnam male panic and its connection to the Iron John movement. He highlights *Die Hard* as a prime example of the 'male rampage film' genre, where white male protagonists express frustration on issues such as feminism, government bureaucracy, and political corruption, whilst also exploring the film's anticipation of terrorism that foreshadows the era-defining 'war on terror' that would follow.

Jon Lewis is the Distinguished Professor of Film Studies and Honors College Eminent Professor at Oregon State University, USA.



02 October 2025

104 pages

Images: 60 colour illustrations

Paperback

9781839026522

£12.99

Imprint: British Film Institute



02 October 2025
 104 pages
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 £12.99
 Imprint: British Film Institute

Kaagaz Ke Phool (Paper Flowers)

Lalitha Gopalan

Guru Dutt's final work, *Kaagaz Ke Phool* (Paper Flowers) revolutionised Indian cinematography, being the first Indian film to be shot in CinemaScope. The film was met with critical and commercial failure, but today is considered one of the finest examples of self-reflexive filmmaking in India.

Gopalan uses *Kaagaz Ke Phool* as a lens through which to assess Dutt's influence on popular Indian cinema in the long decade of the 1950s, and on global film melodrama more broadly.

Lalitha Gopalan is Associate Professor of film studies at the University of Texas at Austin, USA. She is the author of *Bombay* (BFI Modern Classics, 2005).



02 October 2025
 104 pages
 Images: 60 colour illustrations
 Paperback
 9781839028946
 £12.99
 Imprint: British Film Institute

Nashville

Heather Hendershot

Hendershot situates Robert Altman's *Nashville* (1975) in the context of 1970s Hollywood, charts it as an auteurist production, and, finally and most crucially, analyses the movie as a text both personal and political, as a film about failed attempts at intimacy and human connection, all within the context of a wider, American moment of failure. In spite of those failures, and Altman's trademark cynicism, she argues that the film ultimately offers fleeting moments of connection and of guarded hopefulness.

Heather Hendershot is Cardiss Collins Professor of Communication Studies and Journalism at Northwestern University, USA. She is the author of *When the News Broke: Chicago 1968 and the Polarizing of America* (2022) which was mentioned by the *New Yorker* as the "Best Book We Read This Week".

Billy Elliot

James Leggott

Set against the backdrop of the 1984-85 miners' strike in County Durham, England, Stephen Daldry's *Billy Elliot* (2000) received widespread critical acclaim upon its release, particularly for its poignant depiction of a working-class family and its young hero's challenge to gender stereotypes.

James Leggott's examination of the film challenges the film's categorisation as an example of 'feel good' northern realism and instead, through close readings of key scenes, he argues that the film's transgressive humour aligns it more with British 'dark' television comedy.

In doing so, he argues its unique place and lasting significance within British cinema history.

James Leggott is Associate Professor of film at Northumbria University, UK. He is author of *The North East of England on Film and Television* (2022), amongst others.



02 October 2025

104 pages

Images: 60 colour illustrations

Paperback

9781839027802

£12.99

Imprint: British Film Institute

Hester Street

Julia Wagner

Joan Micklin Silver's debut feature film, *Hester Street* (1975) was met with critical and commercial success, receiving a nomination from the Writers Guild of America, and a Best Actress nomination at the 1976 Academy Awards.

Julia Wagner's study of the film underscores its cultural and historical significance. Considering the difficulty Micklin Silver faced in trying to secure funding for the film, Wagner examines how Gitl was radically different from mainstream representations of Jewish women on screen in the 1970s, who were often subject to misogynistic and antisemitic ridicule. In doing so, she highlights *Hester Street*'s importance in its own right and as a milestone in women's filmmaking and Jewish cinema.

Julia Wagner is a critic, writer and lecturer based in London, UK, specialising in Jewish film and cultural history, documentary and Italian cinema. She has written widely for publications such as the *Jewish Chronicle* and *Sight & Sound*.



02 October 2025

104 pages

Images: 60 black and white illustrations

Paperback

9781839028069

£12.99

Imprint: British Film Institute



The Before Trilogy

Lucas Hilderbrand

Richard Linklater's trilogy of romantic dramas, *Before Sunrise* (1995), *Before Sunset* (2004), and *Before Midnight* (2013), follows the evolving love story of Jesse (played by Ethan Hawke) and Céline (played by Julie Delpy) over the course of nearly two decades. With the release of each subsequent film, the series' reputation has grown, enchanting and engaging new audiences.

13 November 2025

112 pages

Images: 60 colour illustrations

Paperback

9781839028021

£12.99

Imprint: British Film Institute

Lucas Hilderbrand reflects on the experience of falling of love with, living with, and having one's own life shaped by the *Before* trilogy.

Lucas Hilderbrand is Professor and Chair of Film and Media Studies at the University of California, Irvine, USA. He is the author of *The Bars Are Ours: Histories and Cultures of Gay Bars in America, 1960*, amongst other titles.



One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Jaimey Fisher

Miloš Forman's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was met with widespread critical and commercial success on its release in 1975. The third highest grossing film of the year, it won five major Academy Awards including best director and best actor.

Jaimey Fisher's study deconstructs how *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was simultaneously typical and extraordinary for its New Hollywood era.

13 November 2025

104 pages

Images: 60 colour illustrations

Paperback

9781839026669

£12.99

Imprint: British Film Institute

Through a close reading of key scenes depicting electroconvulsive ("shock") therapy and lobotomies, Fisher analyses the film's critique of the American mental health infrastructure and its influence in instigating a broader rethinking of trauma, mental illness and institutionalisation in the 1960s and 1970s. Outlining the film's high-profile afterlife, Fisher underscores its unique position in US cinema and cultural history.

Jaimey Fisher is Professor of German and Cinema and Digital Media at the University of California, Davis, USA. He is author of *German Ways of War* (2022), *Treme* (2019), *Christian Petzold* (2013) and *Disciplining Germany* (2007).

Rebel Without a Cause

Glyn Davis

Nicholas Ray's 1955 drama, *Rebel Without a Cause*, is widely considered a cultural touchstone, celebrated for its iconic performances and its depiction of alienation and generational conflict in post-war America.

Glyn Davis examines aspects of *Rebel* that have previously been critically neglected, as well as the film's complex depictions of rebellion, embodied not just in James Dean's Jim Stark, but in multiple other characters, and its foundational role in the emergent genre of the teen film.

Considering *Rebel's* influence as a canonical work of LGBTQ+ cinema, he highlights the film's enduring legacy and why it continues to resonate with contemporary audiences, not only because of the tragic early deaths of its three young stars.

Glyn Davis is Professor of Film Studies at the University of St Andrews, UK. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of eleven books, including *The Richard Dyer Reader* (BFI/Bloomsbury, co-edited with Jaap Kooijman, 2023).



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OBJECT LESSONS

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Featuring contributions from writers, artists, scholars, journalists, and others, the emphasis throughout is lucid writing, imagination, and brevity. *Object Lessons* paints a picture of the world around us, and tells the story of how we got here, one object at a time.

Videotape

Oana Godeanu-Kenworthy

Over the span of a single decade, VHS technology changed the relationship between privacy and entertainment, pried open the closed societies behind the Iron Curtain, and then sank back into oblivion. The meteoric rise and fall of the VHS videotape encapsulated the dynamics of the '80s and foreshadowed the seismic shifts to come in the Cold War.

In the West, its advent deepened the trends of the age: individualism, consumerism, and the fragmentation of society. In the East, it encouraged new forms of socialization and economic exchange, while announcing the gradual crumbling of government control over the imagination of the people.

By the mid-1990s, the VHS format was displaced by the DVD, then by streaming. Yet the cultural legacy of the videotape continues to inform our relationship to technology, privacy, and to entertainment.

Oana Godeanu-Kenworthy is Associate Teaching Professor of American Studies at Miami University, Ohio, USA.



04 September 2025

160 pages

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Metronome

Matthew H. Birkhold

When the metronome was invented in 1815, it transformed the music world. Composers could now guide—and constrain—players of their works. Musicians gained a tool to guide them to perfection.

Giants of classical music like Beethoven embraced the metronome early (its steady tick can even be heard in the eighth symphony), but fights soon erupted that have persisted today. Some consider the metronome an essential part of music instruction, others believe it creates mindless players and inhibits art.

Weaving together examples from music, literature, and psychology, as well as the philosophical musings of scientists and artists, *Metronome* uncovers the surprising and fraught history of a timeless object.

Matthew H. Birkhold is Associate Professor of German at Ohio State University, USA. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Atlas Obscura*.



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Microphone

Ralph Jones

Since its invention more than 150 years ago, the microphone transformed the world. Yet its evolution and integration into our daily lives has been comparatively gradual—so gradual, crucially, that it is easy to forget just how much we take it for granted. Every phone has a microphone. Every laptop has a microphone. The microphone is inextricable from our need to be heard. *Microphone* explores how our desire to be heard has created a multi-headed beast we are still learning how to tame.

Ralph Jones is a journalist and comedy writer based in the UK who has written for publications including *The New Yorker*, *The Guardian*, *Wired*, *Sunday Times Magazine*, *Vice*, *Esquire*, *BBC Culture*, and *GQ*.



02 October 2025
 160 pages
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Taco

Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado

Taco is a deep dive into the most iconic Mexican food from the perspective of a Mexico City native. In a narrative that moves from Mexico to the United States and back, Sánchez Prado discusses the definition of the taco, the question of the tortilla and the taco shell, and the existence of the taco as a modern social touchstone that has been shaped by history and geography.

Challenging the idea of centrality and authenticity, Sánchez Prado shows instead that the taco is a contemporary, transcultural food that has always been subject to transformation.

Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado is the Jarvis Thurston and Mona van Duyn Professor in Humanities at Washington University in Saint Louis, USA. His writing has appeared in *The Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Review of Books*, amongst other publications.

Cat

Rebecca van Laer

When Rebecca van Laer and her partner purchase a home and move in with their senior cats, their loved ones see this as a step toward an inevitable future – first comes the house, then a dog, then a child. But what if they are just cat people?

Touching on the age-old rivalry between cats and dogs, the stereotype of the ‘crazy cat lady’, the joy of cat memes, and the grief of pet loss, van Laer demonstrates that the cat-person relationship is free of the discipline and dependence required by parenting (and dog-parenting), creating a less hierarchical intimacy that offers a different model for love.

Rebecca van Laer holds a PhD in English from Brown University, USA. Her writing has appeared in *BOMB*, *Full Stop*, and *The Rumpus*, amongst others.



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160 pages

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Straitjacket

Stassa Edwards

The straitjacket was an invention of the reformist spirit sweeping eighteenth-century Europe. Intended as an object of compassion, its soft material was gentler than the chains favoured in asylums. But it quickly became shorthand for a host of existential fears of restraint and imprisonment.

Stassa Edwards's *Straitjacket* delves into the medical history of the "humanitarian" restraint that became the symbol of institutionalised repression, tracing its many afterlives in our collective cultural consciousness and imagination.

Stassa Edwards is a freelance editor and writer based in Florida, USA. She has written and edited features for outlets including *The Guardian*, *Slate* and the *History Channel*.



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33 $\frac{1}{3}$

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33 1/3 is a series of short books about popular music, focusing on individual albums by artists ranging from James Brown to Celine Dion and from J Dilla to Neutral Milk Hotel.

The B-52s' Cosmic Thing

Pete Crighton

The B-52s' fifth record *Cosmic Thing* took the world by storm in 1989 in the wake of the band's single greatest tragedy: losing guitarist Ricky Wilson to complications from AIDS in 1985. *Cosmic Thing* is a celebration of queer joy in the face of pain and grief.

The B-52s were always queer, though not overtly, and this book dissects the coded messaging in the B-52s music, using *Cosmic Thing* as a launching point. This book looks at what was obvious all along – the B-52s aren't just pop culture icons, they are queer history.

Pete Crighton is a Toronto based writer and record collector.



04 September 2025
128 pages
Paperback
9798765133125
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Imprint: Bloomsbury
Academic

Erykah Badu's New Amerykah Part Two (Return of the Ankh)

Kameryn Alexa Carter

First composed on her laptop at home, with some vocals recorded in her bathroom, Erykah Badu's *New Amerykah Part Two* is lo-fi and highly sophisticated—exquisitely analog and experimentally techy.

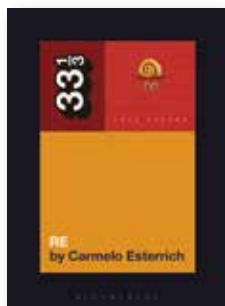
An organism at once cohesive and discordant, it flows, jams, grooves, bounces. It transforms.

The album occupies a hybrid space: haunted by sonic ghosts of the dead and the living through its samples, interpolations, and lyrical references. It moves through the permeable boundaries between genres. The album and Badu herself are cyborgs—soldering human-made technology—from the prominent synth, to her titanium suit on the album's cover and the nature-made human.

Kameryn Alexa Carter is a founding co-editor of *Emergent Literary*, a journal for black and brown artists. Her work has appeared in *68to05*, *Bennington Review*, *Phoebe*, *Torch Literary Arts*, *Bat City Review*, and elsewhere.



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13 November 2025
152 pages
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Café Tacvba's Re

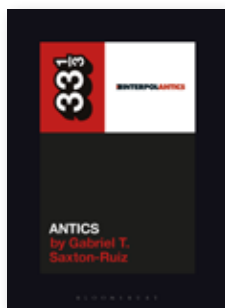
Carmelo Esterrich

Re, the 1994 album by the Mexican group Café Tacvba, is spectacularly unique, adopting and adapting myriad musical genres with the pulse, the attitude, and the energy of punk and rock.

Mambo and ska, samba and salsa, punk and industrial, disco and Mexican banda, are but a few of the genres in this musical trip. But *Re* is not appropriation, but rather transformation: 20 original tracks of music that think through the music created and consumed in Latin America.

The lyrics add layer after layer of either nuance or shock, as they play with the cultural and musical expectations of the many genres included in the album. *Re*, in a very real way, displays the post-punk origins of the band—loud, thoughtful, nerdy and quirky, irreverent—and it does so by creating songs that represent the historical, cultural, musical and political complexity of Mexico and Latin America.

Carmelo Esterrich is Professor of Humanities and Cultural Studies at Columbia College Chicago, USA.



13 November 2025
152 pages
Paperback
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Academic

Interpol's Antics

Gabriel T. Saxton-Ruiz

Released in 2004, *Antics* initially received a spectrum of responses—acclaimed by fans yet, somewhat dismissively regarded by critics; nevertheless, time has favoured *Antics*, elevating it to a revered status.

The album left an indelible mark on the indie rock landscape since its emergence in the vibrant New York City scene of the early 2000s. Covering the album's intricate musical craftsmanship with insights from lead singer Paul Banks, this book reveals the depths of Interpol's creative evolution. Underscoring the album's longevity and Interpol's status as architects of a sound that has resonated across borders and generations, this book cements their place in the annals of modern music history.

Gabriel T. Saxton-Ruiz is the Chair of Cultural Studies and Professor of Latin American Literature & Culture at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, USA.

Sufjan Stevens' Carrie & Lowell

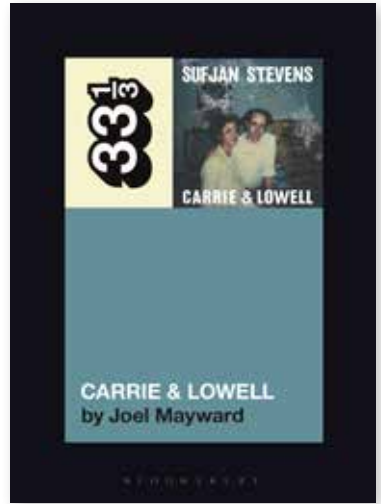
Joel Mayward

Upon the release of Sufjan Stevens' seventh studio album, *Carrie & Lowell*, two opposing groups found themselves as strange bedfellows: the LGBTQIA+ community and American evangelical Christians. Both were united in praise for Stevens' beautifully melancholic music.

Critically acclaimed as one of the best albums of 2015, the elegiac and intimate record about the death of Sufjan's estranged mother reflects the musician's own paradoxical posture—*Carrie & Lowell* is both sacred and profane, Christian and queer, traditional and progressive, modern and postmodern.

Mayward examines the unique audience reception of *Carrie & Lowell* and the questions it raises: in a world of division, how might Stevens' music act as a bridge of love between seemingly irreconcilable communities?

Joel Mayward is Assistant Professor of Christian Ministries, Theology and the Arts at George Fox University in Oregon, USA.



13 November 2025

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GENRE

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Genre: A 33 1/3 Series is a series of short books that guide you through the musical sub-genres that have intrigued, perplexed, or provoked you.

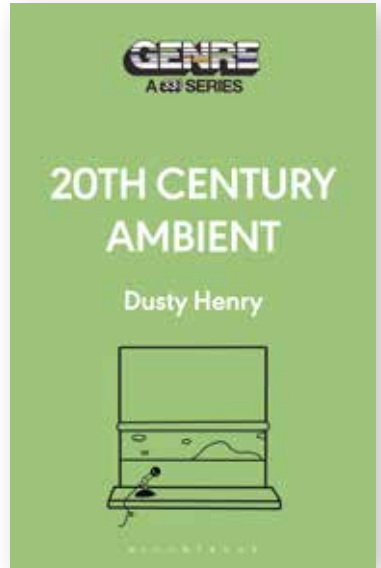
20th Century Ambient

Dusty Henry

Ambient music is a part of our daily lives, whether we all realise it or not.

20th Century Ambient details a crucial period in which ambient music was secretly one of the most popular genres in the world. Ambient has existed debatably as long as music itself, yet it wasn't until the 20th century that it became a defined genre. This book walks through ambient's ambiguous timeline to uncover not just the genre's evolution but to understand why it resonates so deeply with the human spirit.

Dusty Henry is a writer and editor based out of Seattle, Washington, USA. He currently works at as an editor at KEXP, a non-profit radio station and arts organisation. His work has also appeared in *Stereogum*, *NPR Music*, and *Consequence of Sound*.



02 October 2025

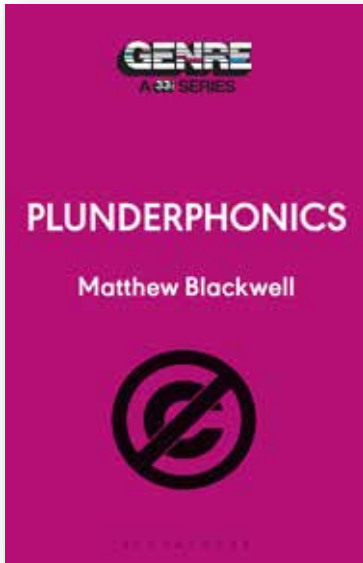
160 pages

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Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic



02 October 2025
 160 pages
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Plunderphonics

Matthew Blackwell

Beginning in the 1980s, a group led by Canadian composer John Oswald and San Francisco band Negativland took on the major labels by making music with purposefully uncleared samples.

Pillaging and parodying music from Dolly Parton, Beethoven, the Beatles, Michael Jackson, U2 and dozens of others, they incited legal threats that they then turned into publicity for their cause.

Their battle for fair use was largely successful, leading to future stars like The Avalanches and Girl Talk who took remix culture to new heights.

In a wide-ranging history that discusses landmark works by Steinski, The Tape Beatles, People Like Us, DJ Shadow, J Dilla, and Danger Mouse, this book narrates the battle against restrictive copyright laws and the rise of a movement toward a shared creative commons.

Matthew Blackwell is a freelance music and culture writer. His writing has appeared in *Pitchfork*, *Bandcamp Daily*, *Tone Glow*, *Tiny Mix Tapes*, *The Wire Magazine*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

Paperbacks and New Editions



Grey Gardens

Matthew Tinkcom

The Maysles brothers' *Grey Gardens* (1975) is one of the most important documentary films of the post-war period.

Matthew Tinkcom's study of the film argues that it reshaped documentary cinema by moving camera to the heart of the household, a private space into which film-makers had seldom previously ventured. Tinkcom contends that the film's appeal arrives in the rich melodramatic dimensions of the Edie Bouvier Beale and her mother Edith's everyday lives in which they argue, dress up, flirt, laugh, sing, dance and reminisce about their experiences in New York's social elite in the first half of the twentieth century.

In his afterword for this new edition, Tinkcom reconsiders the film fifty years after its release, discussing its enduring impact and recent developments in its reception.

Matthew Tinkcom is Director and Professor of Communication, Culture and Technology at Georgetown University, USA.

04 September 2025
104 pages
Images: 60 colour illustrations
Paperback
Second edition
9781839029295
£12.99
Imprint: British Film Institute



Memory Makers

The Politics of the Past in Putin's Russia

Jade McGlynn

Inside the Kremlin's own historical propaganda narratives, Russia's invasion of Ukraine makes complete sense for many ordinary Russians.

In *Memory Makers*, Russia analyst Jade McGlynn takes us into the depths of Russian historical propaganda, revealing the chilling web of narratives perforating everyday life, from after-school patriotic history clubs to tower block Second World War murals. The use of history to manifest a particular Russian identity has had grotesque, even gruesome, consequences, but it belongs to a global political pattern – where one's view of history is the ultimate marker of political loyalty, patriotism and national belonging. *Memory Makers* demonstrates how the extreme Russian experience is a stark warning to other nations tempted to stare too long at the reflection of their own imagined and heroic past.

Jade McGlynn is a Researcher in the War Studies department at King's College London, UK. She is a frequent contributor to international media, including BBC, CNN, DW, *Foreign Policy*, *The Times*, *The Telegraph* and *The Spectator*.

16 October 2025
248 pages
Paperback
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Détente

The Chance to End the Cold War

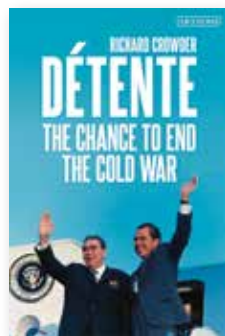
Richard Crowder

Between 1968 and 1975, there was a subtle thawing of relations between East and West, for which Brezhnev coined the name *Détente*, and – perhaps – a chance to end the Cold War.

Yet, the greatest changes of the era took place outside the sphere of international diplomacy. From the anti-war protests in America to the student demonstrations on the streets of Paris, and Mao Zedong's Red Guards in China, a new generation had different attitudes to towards sex, gender, race, the environment and religion.

In this book, Richard Crowder explores the years of *Détente*, and introduces us to the key players of the era.

Richard Crowder is a UK diplomat and has worked for the Foreign Office since 1996 most recently serving as the Deputy High Commissioner in Pakistan. Richard is also an independent historian.



30 October 2025

272 pages

Paperback

9781350430730

£19.99

Imprint: Bloomsbury Academic

Dilwale Dulhania le Jayenge

(The Brave-Hearted Will Take the Bride)

Anupama Chopra

Aditya Chopra's 1995 romantic drama, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (The Brave-Hearted Will Take the Bride), is one of the most commercially successful and longest-running films in Indian cinema history, shown consistently for over 25 years in Mumbai's Maratha Mandir theatre.

Anupama Chopra's study argues that it is a paradoxical film which at once affirms the power of love to transcend societal norms and expectations, while also upholding old-fashioned values of pre-marital chastity and family authority, affirming the idea that Westernisation need not affect an essential Indian identity.

In her foreword to this new edition, published to coincide with the film's 30th anniversary, Chopra reflects on the film's success, considering its position as cultural phenomenon that continues to resonate with audiences worldwide.

Anupama Chopra is an author, journalist, film critic and director of the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival. She has been a film critic for NDTV, *India Today*, and *The Hindustan Times*.



11 December 2025

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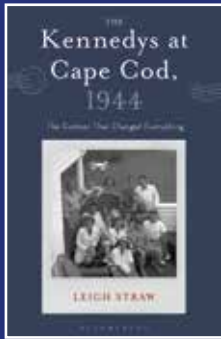
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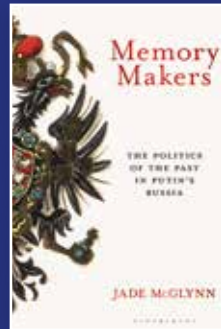
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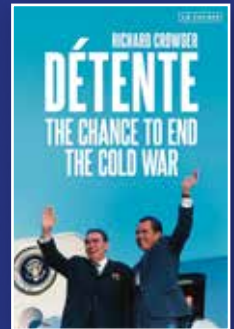
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