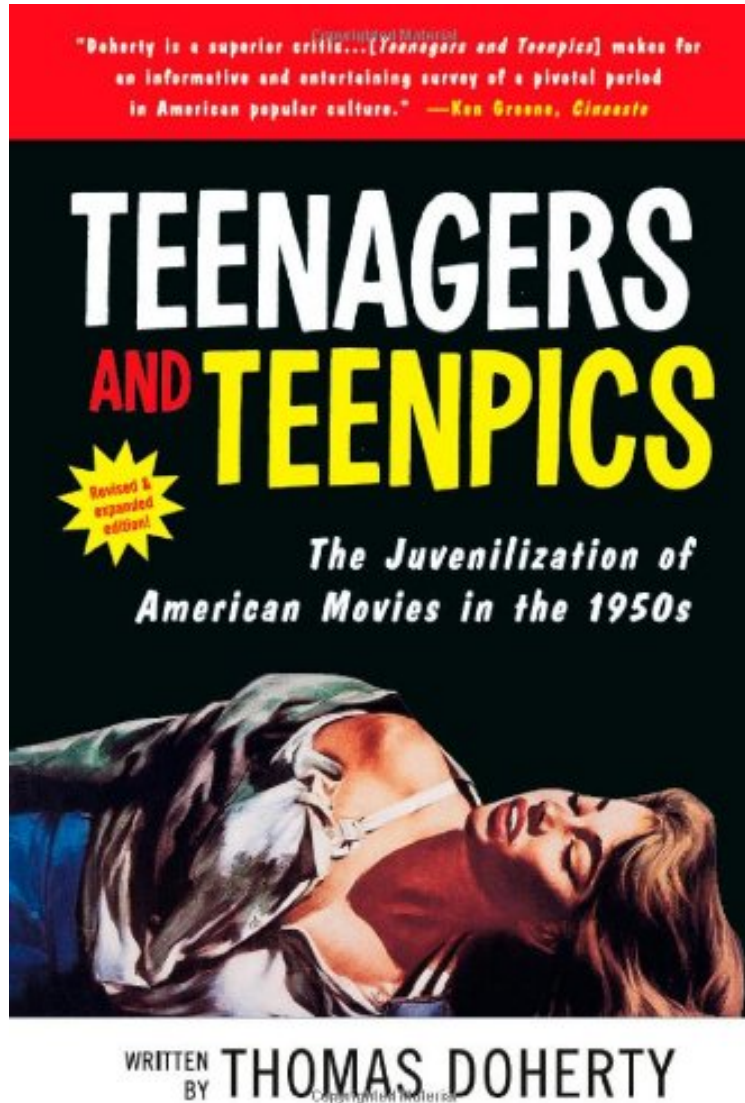


Teenagers And Teenpics: Juvenilization Of American Movies

Thomas Doherty

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Thomas Doherty : Teenagers And Teenpics: Juvenilization Of American Movies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Teenagers And Teenpics: Juvenilization Of American Movies:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive Book on Teen Films of the 1950s By A. Bowdoin Van Riper Classic 1950s films about teens like Blackboard Jungle and Rebel Without a Cause were the tip of a very large cinematic iceberg. Major studios and (especially) small-time independent production companies cranked out dozens of teen-oriented films a year: rock-and-roll films, juvenile-delinquent films, surfing films, high-school

melodramas, hot-rod films, and science-fiction/horror films. Most of them were shot with low budgets, no-name casts, and tight schedules . . . and most of them fell somewhere between competently formulaic and jaw-droppingly awful. Teens were the most reliable movie-going audience in 1950s America, however, and even formulaic teenpics drew substantial audiences and turned respectable profits. Thomas Doherty's *Teenagers and Teenpics* is, by far, the best book available on 1950s teenpics. It traces the changes in Hollywood, and the changes in the wider culture, that made them a viable genre, and breaks down each of the major teen subgenres that flourished in the 1950s. Doherty is more interested in analyzing the films than in cataloging them, to the book and reader's benefit. The book doesn't list every significant teen film of the era (or try) but it covers enough ground to clearly set the teenpics in the context of 1950s Hollywood and 1950s culture in general. The last chapter - the only one that breaks from this pattern - is, tellingly, also the weakest. Trying to survey the development of teenpics from the end of the fifties into the then-present day (late 1990s), it sacrifices insightful analysis for mere base-covering, and feels unsatisfying by comparison. The book as a whole, though, is both analytically satisfying and smoothly, accessibly written. It's a rewarding read for anyone with even a passing interest in Hollywood film or 1950s culture, and a must-own for anyone with a serious interest in either. 0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Undistinguished book on the subject. By steamduck43 This is a survey of teenage-oriented movies of the 50's. It is rather boring in spots, and has few pictures. There are better sources of information on the subject. Note: I am reviewing the book, not the dealer, whose service could not have been better.

Teenagers and Teenpics tells the story of two signature developments in the 1950s: the decline of the classical Hollywood cinema and the emergence of that strange new creature, the American teenager. Hollywood's discovery of the teenage moviegoer initiated a progressive "juvenilization" of film content that is today the operative reality of the American motion picture industry. The juvenilization of the American movies is best revealed in the development of the 1950s "teenpic," a picture targeted at teenagers even to the exclusion of their elders. In a wry and readable style, Doherty defines and interprets the various teenpic film types: rock 'n' roll pictures, j.d. films, horror and sci-fi weirdies, and clean teenpics. Individual films are examined both in light of their impact on the motion picture industry and in terms of their important role in validating the emerging teenage subculture. Also included in this edition is an expanded treatment of teenpics since the 1950s, especially the teenpics produced during the age of AIDS. Author note: Thomas Doherty is Associate Professor of American Studies and Chair of the Film Studies Program at Brandeis University. He is the author of two previous books, including *Pre-Code Hollywood: Sex, Immorality, and Insurrection in American Cinema, 1930-1934*, which was a New York Times Notable Book for 1999.

From Publishers Weekly This is a book especially aimed at film students and buffs, but it will appeal also to a wider audience. The facts are well-researched and heavily footnoted, but in spite of these scholarly trappings, Doherty manages to present a fascinating view of Hollywood's decision-making process and the evolution of "teenpics." It was the sheer numbers of the baby boomers that made adolescents an obvious target for the movie industry during the "economic desperation" of the television-tuned 1950s. *Blackboard Jungle* and *Rebel Without a Cause* were two of the most significant early teenpics. One introduced rock music and the other James Dean. "It wasn't Dean's sex appeal that made him the movies' first authentic cult figure since Rudolph Valentino. It was his stance, his representative power as a teenager." Together the films spawned the "delinquent" movie. Whether art imitates life or vice versa, juvenile delinquency became an obsession in America and a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee investigation ended in harsh comments about teenpics, especially *Blackboard Jungle*, but the days when politics dictated movie content were over. Discussions on horror and "clean" teenpics and a filmography are included as well. Doherty is an assistant professor of humanities at Boston University. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. "For an example of real scholarship in the field of cultural studies, one cannot do better than Thomas Doherty's *Teenagers and Teenpics*-an astute introduction to the 'juvenilization,' not just of Hollywood, but of America's post-war pop culture more generally."-James Miller, Director of Liberal Studies, New School University, and author of *Flowers in the Dustbin: The Rise of Rock and Roll, 1947-1977* "Thomas Doherty's *Teenagers and Teenpics*, a fascinating study of Hollywood's response to the newly discovered youth market in the 1950s, felicitously brings together solid research, sensitive critical analysis, and an engaging writing style. Too long out of print, Doherty's book, which now brings the saga of 'teenpics' up to date, remains an indispensable guide to a significant aspect of American culture."-Michael Anderegg, author *Orson Welles, Shakespeare, and Popular Culture* "Thomas Doherty is a wonderful film historian, as well as an astute cultural observer and a scholarly live wire. His account of Hollywood youth movies is as sensitive to the craziness of the marketplace as that of the movies themselves-smart, detailed, and near-definitive."-J. Hoberman, film critic, *The Village Voice* From the Publisher The classic book on teenagers and their films, thoroughly revised and expanded