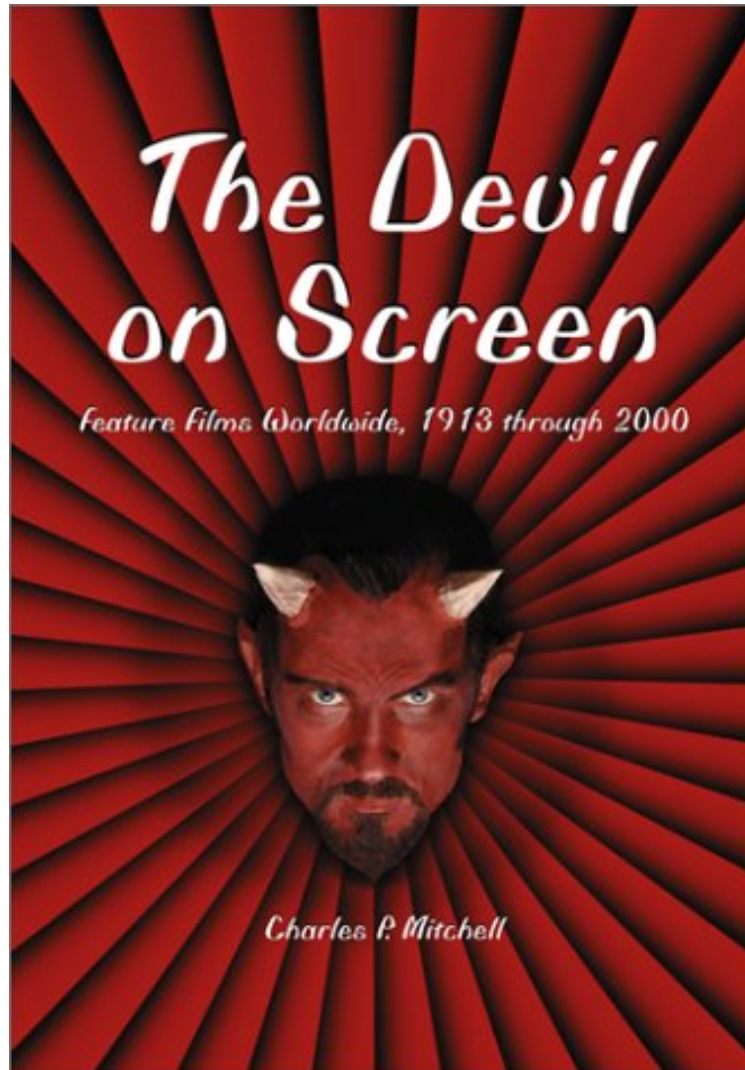


The Devil on Screen: Feature Films Worldwide, 1913 Through 2000

Charles P. Mitchell

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Charles P. Mitchell : The Devil on Screen: Feature Films Worldwide, 1913 Through 2000 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Devil on Screen: Feature Films Worldwide, 1913 Through 2000:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Mitchell's THE DEVIL ON SCREEN Should "DOG YOUR TRAIL!"By Dr. Ronald SchwartzWhen I first began reading THE DEVIL ON SCREEN, I looked for my favorite films---Mitchell begins with ALIAS NICK BEAL (1949)with Ray Milland as 'the Devil.' He goes through all of the screen credits, gives an annotated cast listing, an appraisal and succinct synopsis, a word on the actor's performances and finally, some notable quotes from the screenplay. Stills and lobby cards are included wherever possible. The

author's forte is that he uses this configuration for every film he analyzes---and his perception is always on target!For example, besides the fantasy element in BEAL, Mitchell also catches the aspects of "film noir," which make his review doubly rewarding. He knows his film music, especially the noirish Franz Waxman score (which has gone unrecorded all of these years) but more importantly, despite all of the detailed turns of the plot, Mitchell uses original source information to enhance the chapter.He interviewed Audrey Totter, one of the film's stars, who related some "inside information" about her fellow actors, their attitudes on the set and her dissatisfaction with the studio, Paramount, which promoted the film badly. Mitchell hopes for its "rediscovery" and as a reader, I applaud his critique---not for just this film but the hundred or so films he accurately and astutely examines with his fine sense of critical purview.Mitchell's book is an A to Z of "devil films," with two excellent appendices, a thorough and useable index and wonderful stills and lobby cards that entice the reader to read a review of a film that he or she may NOT have seen. His publisher has also done justice to the author's work because of its beautiful, artful and colorful front and back covers and has produced a library bound edition worthy for purchase for collectors, libraries and for those of us who are fascinated by the theme of the "devil in cinema."Too bad Mitchell had to begin his critical analysis in 1913 and ended it in 2000---for there must be some "devilish" films out there through 2002---and his gaze is not only on American cinema but international films that come under his critical view--such as the 1922 silent Danish work by Ben Christensen, HAXAN, which was recently brought out on DVD by Criterion and that French sound marvel from 1942, LES VISITEURS DU SOIR with Arletty and Jules Berry as the Devil. Certainly, Mitchell's exploration of the theme is comprehensive, detailed, insightful and at times, even humorous.This is a book I have always wanted for my own collection---and Mitchell's other books, one on APOCALYPTIC CINEMA and a GUIDE TO FILMS OF CHARLIE CHAN (both published by Greenwood Press)[Note: Mitchell's book on CHAN is the BEST ONE ON THE MARKET!]- are worthy forerunners in film criticism to this new DEVIL work from McFarland Co. I hear by the critical grapevine that Mitchell has something in the works about "HITLER IN FILM" and possibly a biography of RICHARD BASEHART, one of the most neglected character actors of the late forties and early fifties. I hope my sources are correct and we also see these future volumes--but I am still content with THE DEVIL ON SCREEN for now---there is so much good "stuff" in it that I can hardly put it down.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I Bought this Book Because the Devil Made Me Do It!By NoirFanThe first film covered by Charles Mitchell in this fine book happens to be my favorite "devil" movie of all time - the film noir "Alias Nick Beal," starring Ray Milland as Satan and Audrey Totter as his unwilling femme fatale accomplice out to ensnare the soul of an ambitious politician (Thomas Mitchell). And reeling me in, Mr. Mitchell also includes such classics as "The Devil and Daniel Webster" and "Heaven Can Wait," the wonderfully camp "The Devil's Rain" (with Ernest Borgnine, of all people, as the Devil), and the abysmal "Satan's School for Girls." In addition to the ninety-five films and terrific photos presented in this exhaustive work, there are two appendices - one listing more than 100 obscure "devil" films dating from 1896 to 2000 and another covering 18 actors, including Fred Astaire, Burgess Meredith, Mickey Rooney, and Julie Newmar(!), who have portrayed the Devil on television. Mr. Mitchell, the author of "Screen Sirens Scream!" and "The Hitler Filmography," has written a detailed and entertaining book that deserves to be in every film buff's library.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fun book with a "Devil May Care" approachBy A CustomerThis is a fun book with a "Devil may Care" approach. Each film is completely annotated with witty and sometime hilarious reviews (and, as a change of pace, a few profound observations). Are you looking to learn more about the silent classics? STUUDENT OF PRAGUE (1913 or 1927) or Murnau's FAUST. This is the right place to come. Many delightful photos, plus rating system that separates the wheat from the chaff. You will find more scree devil's than you ever dreamed existed...singing devils (such as Ray Walston and Danny Elfman), comic devils (such as George Burns and Stanley Holloway), charming devils (such as Laird Cregar and Vincent Price), charming devils (such as Ray Milland or Max von Sydow), sinister devils (such as Richard Burton or Victor Buono) or really creepy devils (such as Jeff Goldblum or Michael York). This book can be enjoyable when read in short spurts or an all night readathon. Plus the information in the appendix alone is an expert compendium. Recommended

This work explores in detail feature films that depict the devil. Each entry in the filmography provides an evaluative rating, annotated cast list, plot synopsis and film appraisal.

From BooklistProvides production details, cast lists, synopses, and evaluations for films in which the devil makes "a bona fide appearance" and is played "by a recognizable person." RBBCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Excellent writing and research"--Classic Images; "fascinatingentertaining and thoughtful"--Cult Movies; "delves deep...exhaustively researched...crisply written"--VideoScope; "the range of its films is genuinely impressiveunearths plenty of dooziessinfully entertaining"--Shock Cinema; "detailed...commentary is insightful"--CRL News; "valuable...a fine book"--horrornews.net; "straightforward"--Communication Booknotes Quarterly; "heavily annotated...all the lowdown you could want on Diabolical movies"--Interzone; "detailed...a fine mix...interesting...detailed index...useful"--Rue Morgue; "recommended"--Reference User Services Quarterly; "one of the best features is the notable quotes from each movie" --Classic ImagesAbout the AuthorProfessional librarian

Charles P. Mitchell, coauthor of *Scream Sirens Scream!* (2000), has served two terms as chairman of the Southern Maine Library District. He has written major film articles for *Classic Images*, *Filmfax*, *Big Reel* and *Videoscope*. He is also the author of *The Hitler Filmography* to be published in 2002.