



# Screen Ages: A Survey of American Cinema

*John Alberti*

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*Screen Ages* is a valuable guide for students exploring the complex and vibrant history of US cinema and showing how this film culture has grown, changed and developed.

Covering key periods from across American cinema history, John Alberti explores the social, technological and political forces that have shaped cinematic output and the varied impacts cinema of on US society.

Each chapter has a series of illuminating key features, including:

- ‘Now Playing’, focusing on films as cinematic events, from *The Birth of a Nation* to *Gone with the Wind* to *Titanic*, to place the reader in the social context of those viewing the films for the first time
- ‘In Development’, exploring changing genres, from the melodrama to the contemporary super hero movies,
- ‘The Names Above and Below the Title’, portraying the impact and legacy of central figures, including Florence Lawrence, Orson Welles and Wes Anderson
- Case studies, analyzing key elements of films in more depth
- Glossary terms featured throughout the text, to aid non-specialist students and expand the readers understanding of changing screen cultures.

*Screen Ages* illustrates how the history of US cinema has always been and continues to be one of multiple screens, audiences, venues, and markets. It is an essential text for all those wanting to understand of power of American cinema throughout history and the challenges for its future.

The book is also supported by a companion website, featuring additional case studies, an interactive blog, a quiz bank for each chapter and an online chapter, ‘Screen Ages Today’ that will be updated to discuss the latest developments in American cinema.

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