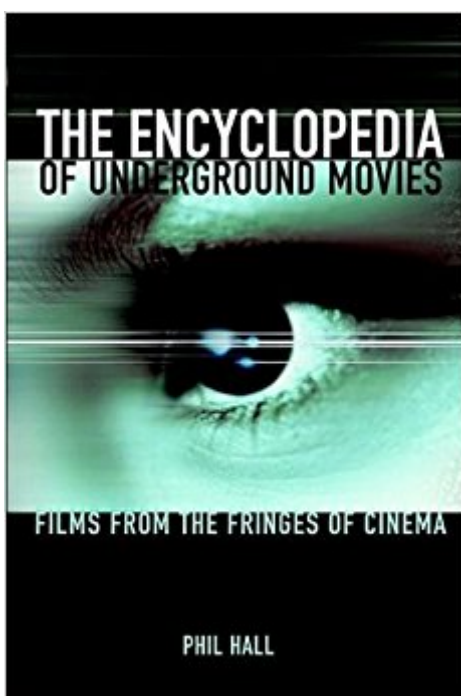


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The Encyclopedia Of Underground Movies: Films From The Fringes Of Cinema



Synopsis

Unlike most independent films, undergrounds roll far from traditional filmmaking circles. With micro-budgets that couldn't cover a day's catering on typical Hollywood films, these productions challenge audiences with bold content and audacious visuals that make cineplex fare taste like stale popcorn.

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Customer Reviews

Hall is the author of *The Encyclopedia of Underground Movies*, and is a contributing editor for the popular online magazine *Film Threat*.

Phil Hall's great new book on the "FRINGE PEOPLE"! All the facts and fictions behind the true independent movie makers; the ones that aren't financed by fat wallet investors or rich relatives. These are the loose cannons with a camera who aren't making movies for the mainstream beehives, but pursuing their own vision, albeit often warped. More eye opening than the first shot of "Un Chein Andelou."

Cinephiles and just plain movie lovers will rejoice over this comprehensive analysis of below-the-radar filmmaking that celebrates everything the mainstream is afraid to acknowledge - innovative, bizarre, wild, wacky, and often visionary material that can only find the light of day in the shadowy world of underground movies. Phil Hall, movie critic, writer and contributing editor of *FILM THREAT* magazine, offers a perceptive analysis and overview of the independently produced and

often micro-budget films and videos that defy mainstream studio standards and rules, and continually break bold new ground in motion picture history. Hall claims that underground cinema has its roots as far back as the silent movie era, and his book literally chronicles such material from then to now. He also suggests that underground cinema is a parallel universe to the motion picture world we know and love, the world of big box-office, blockbusters and mega-profits. This book is your ticket to that universe, so buckle up. It's going to be one wild ride. The book covers every kind of underground movie form, from the artistic renderings of great classics to the lower-brow horror hack-em-ups, and everything in between, as well as interviews with filmmakers and artists on the cutting edge. There are plenty of great black and white photos and lists of movies that best represent the chosen genres, with short descriptions sure to send fans to the video store for more. We also learn the best websites for underground movie viewing, where the great film festivals are, even what to do if you, yes, you, want to make an underground film. This book truly does serve as both a guide book and an encyclopedia, offering just about every kind of advise needed to master the art of the fringe film from the men and women who make them, collect them, and love them. No film collector, writer, movie fan, actor, producer, director or lover of all things out of the norm should be without "The Encyclopedia of Underground Movies." You may never look at a boring, formula, unoriginal, cheesy blockbuster movie the same way again.

In just under a decade, DV (IE1394) has given birth to a generation of new filmmakers (okay, not really film, but that's the point, it's no longer necessary) who've never known Hollywood, never gone to UCLA or NYU, and never raised more money than what it takes to buy a new car. And yet they've generated a whole new genre of outstanding independent films that truly are independent--and veteran film reviewer Phil Hall has about the best overview of their work in this first real decade of indie DV production. From producers with new takes on the Classics of Shakespeare to free-style apostles of Mike Leigh, Hall's take on the new school of movie-makers is a must for any aspiring producer today. He writes easily as a film reviewer, but reveals a discerning eye for the subtle and the grotesque, and there's a lot of both to be mined in the long list of indie producers he profiles. This encyclopedia is also highly recommended for viewers tired of the standard Hollywood fare, who love finding new and off-beat films to watch.

A terrific counterpart to John Pierson's "Spike Mike Slackers and Dykes," Phil Hall's indispensable ENCYCLOPEDIA OF UNDERGROUND MOVIES focuses on the true indie cinema as relayed and documented by those who lived it. These are the passionate filmmakers whose wonderful works are

only rarely seen or have received marginal distribution. These are the filmmakers who are cranking out 10 films a year, shooting in their basement, spending their money on celluloid and tape stock instead of food - the true mavericks of a little known "cinema" that is alive and well, but yet unknown to most. Hall's brilliant book also focuses on the film distributors who live on the fringes while struggling to bring these vanguard films to the screen. He even touches upon a brief history of independent film distribution, focusing on such pioneers as Dave Friedman and Dan Sonney. This is a must read for every filmmaker as well as any fan of independent cinema. Every chapter features fascinating accounts after accounts from filmmakers across the country and their struggles, sometimes humorous, other times inspiring and uplifting, of creating their works and seeing them through to the ultimate battle but artistic gratification of the world of distribution. So put down that book of Peter Biskind's gossip-laden "Down and Dirty Pictures" and go out and read Phil Hall's book to get the real scoop on the state of Indie Cinema.

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