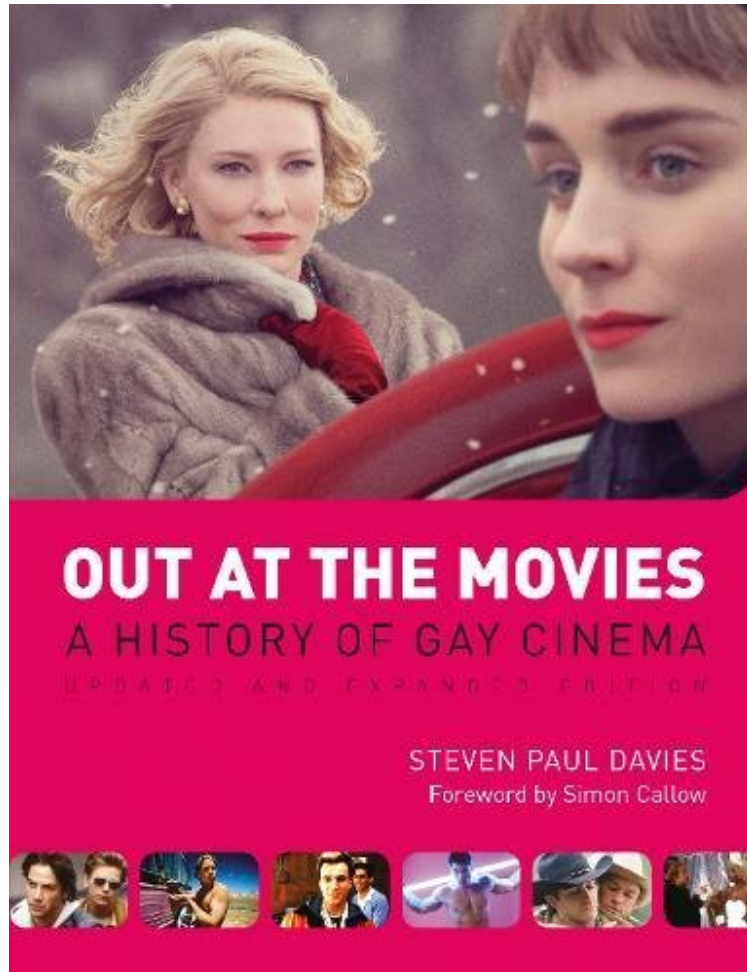


(Read free) Out at the Movies: A History of Gay Cinema

Out at the Movies: A History of Gay Cinema

Steven Paul Davies

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Steven Paul Davies : Out at the Movies: A History of Gay Cinema before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Out at the Movies: A History of Gay Cinema:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was disappointed, howeverBy Isaac HumphreyA very detailed and inclusive book on queer cinema. There were a lot of films mentioned that I was surprised made the cut, since I was expecting them to latch mainly onto the big name ones. I was disappointed, however, to find that no Xavier Dolan films were mentioned, since he's one of my favorite directors and makes amazing films, many of which are queer films. Overall, however, it's a nice roundup of some good films to watch and rewatch.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Gay Cinema Book to OwnBy JWLThis book gives a great in-depth look at gay cinema and how far the movie industry has come all these years. It also gives you insight on the stars, background of the actors and in general, full info on the movies of the period. Highly recommend this book to all movie buffs.15 of 18 people found the following review helpful. A scathing review by Jenni OlsonBy J. OlsonIt has been a very exciting

thing to watch the tremendous continuing expansion of LGBT cinema. Rather than illuminating that growth, I have to say that Steven Paul Davies's ambitiously entitled book does nothing more than attempt to capitalize on the phenomenon. For the most part it reads like an updated Cliff's Notes version of Vito Russo's groundbreaking overview of homosexuality in the movies, *The Celluloid Closet* or a cheap rip-off of Ray Murray's excellent encyclopedia of queer cinema, *Images In The Dark*. If you want a great LGBT film book -- get one of those. Honestly, the majority of *Out At The Movies: A History of Gay Cinema* reads like a sophomore thesis. It consists primarily of lengthy plot descriptions and re-heated platitudes on how gay images have evolved over the years. Substantial amounts of this text read like over-enthusiastic marketing copy straight from the back of a video box. I might add that the book's nominal inclusion of lesbian films convey a stunning ignorance of lesbian film history (the book somehow, amazingly, manages to have no mention at all of *Desert Hearts* -- the single most successful and popular lesbian film of all time). As a film critic, I frequently refrain from writing reviews of works that I don't like. I prefer to champion things I enjoy, rather than trash the things I don't. All of which to say, rarely do I feel compelled to write a negative review. This is an extremely disappointing book. If you're looking for a real "History of Gay Cinema" -- look elsewhere. I would also strongly recommend Alonso Duralde's *101 Must See Movies for Gay Men* as an alternative to this book. Alonso is a terrifically entertaining and thoughtful writer with smart opinions and genuine perspectives on, well, more than 100 movies that you really must see!

Over the decades, gay cinema has reflected the community's journey from persecution to emancipation to acceptance. Politicized dramas like *Victim* in the 60s, *The Naked Civil Servant* in the 70s, and the AIDS cinema of the 80s have given way in recent years to films which celebrate a vast array of gay lifestyles. Gay films have undergone a major shift, from the fringe to the mainstream and 2005s Academy Awards were dubbed "the Gay Oscars" with awards going to *Brokeback Mountain*, *Capote* and *Transamerica*. The book discusses gay cinema since then, and includes information on gay filmmakers and actors and their influence within the industry. Interspersed throughout the book are some of the most iconic scenes from gay cinema and the most memorable dialogue from key films.

From School Library Journal In this lavish history, Davies (*AZ of Cult Films and Filmmakers*) examines gay cinema from its earliest days through the present. He organizes the material by decade, beginning with pre-1960s cinema, and discusses various films within their social contexts from when the subject was off-limits and expressed on-screen only via symbolic codes and icons, through Stonewall and AIDS, to when gay people and gay themes were openly accepted and became central to certain films. Davies follows each chapter with biographical summaries of key actors and directors and includes in-depth examples of the genre's development, from *Midnight Cowboy* (1969) and *La Cage aux Folles* (1978) to *Torch Song Trilogy* (1988), *Philadelphia* (1993), and *Brokeback Mountain* (2005). A generous selection of photos and movie stills and an excellent foreword by Simon Callow nicely complement this work. A thoughtful and well-presented overview of the subject with insightful perspectives on the complex role and social, political, and artistic impact of gay cinema within modern culture. Carol J. Binkowski, Bloomfield, NJ Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A thoughtful and well-presented overview of the subject with insightful perspectives on the complex role and social, political, and artistic impact of gay cinema within modern culture." *Library Journal*