

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NOVELS INTO FILM

One Review

Tibbetts, John C. **The encyclopedia of novels into film.** by John C. Tibbetts and James M. Welsh. Facts on File, 1998. 522p bibl index afp ISBN 0-8160-3317-X, \$60.00.

Choice

This splendid book should be purchased by most libraries, but despite its title it belongs in the circulating, not the reference collection. It surveys some 300 novels that were the basis for one or more feature films. That represents, of course, a sampling from the vast number of such adaptations, even though made-for-TV films are excluded. Many important authors—Austen, Faulkner, Hemingway, Tolstoy—are represented, alongside numerous obscure authors whose works happened to be made into significant films. Arrangement is alphabetical by novel title, with cross-references to foreign and variant film and novel titles, but there is no title index. An essay on each novel is followed by an essay on the film or films developed from that novel. The quality of the essays, written by some 75 contributors, is consistently excellent. Features include an introductory essay and an essay on novelists who worked in Hollywood; an index to authors, scriptwriters, directors, and actors mentioned in the text; brief bibliographies; an appendix with short biographical sketches of selected authors; and some black-and-white movie stills. Like the main text, all the book's reference features are selective rather than comprehensive. An outstanding selective survey of a fascinating topic, well suited to both general and academic audiences, and highly recommended for all public and academic libraries.

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