

BLOOMSBURY RESEARCH SKILLS FOR HISTORY

HISTORIES ON SCREEN

**THE PAST AND PRESENT IN
ANGLO-AMERICAN CINEMA AND TELEVISION**

**EDITED BY SAM EDWARDS,
MICHAEL DOLSKI & FAYE SAYER**

BLOOMSBURY

'The Editors are to be congratulated for bringing together such a fascinating set of essays. The contributors to this volume bring the complexity of the relationship between consumer and producer of history on screen to light in a lively and engaging manner.'

Mark Connelly, Professor of Modern British History, University of Kent, UK

'Today most people learn most of what they know about history from films and television. This thoughtful, wide-ranging and stimulating collection of essays explores in depth how and why this is so. An invaluable contribution to our understanding of an often misunderstood cultural phenomenon.'

Jeffrey Richards, Emeritus Professor of Cultural History, Lancaster University, UK

How, as historians, should we 'read' a film? The book begins with a theoretical 'Thinking about Film and Television' section that explores the ways in which films and television can be analyzed and interrogated as either primary sources, secondary sources or indeed as both. The much larger 'Using Film' segment of the book then offers engaging case studies which put this theory into practice. Topics including gender, class, race, war, propaganda, national identity and memory all receive good coverage in what is an eclectic multi-contributor volume. Documentaries, films and television from Britain and the United States are examined and there is a jargon-free emphasis on the skills and methods needed to analyze films in historical study throughout the text.

Histories on Screen is a vital resource for all history students as it enables them to understand film as a source and empowers them with the analytical tools needed to use that knowledge in their own work.

Sam Edwards is Senior Lecturer in American History at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. He is the author of *Allies in Memory: World War II and the Politics of Transatlantic Commemoration, c.1941–2001* (2015), which was shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's Gladstone Prize.

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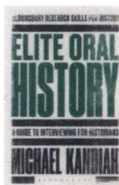


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Histories on Screen

The Past and Present in Anglo-
American Cinema and Television

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SAM EDWARDS, MICHAEL
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Histories on Screen

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is part of a wider project on the ways in which American slavery has been represented in American film and television in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

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This book began with a collection of what in time became connected conversations; with colleagues, with students, with friends, with like-minded people encountered at various conferences over the last few years. These conversations were about film – its worth, value and *use* in historical teaching and research. And in time, as a result of these conversations, the idea for this book was born: a book which would seek to draw upon some of the methods of the dedicated film historian while also exploring how such methods might be incorporated into the activities of those outside the confines of the sub-discipline. In short, the idea was for a book about the use of film *in* history, broadly conceived. Our first debt of thanks, therefore, goes to all those who have contributed to the genesis of the idea, especially students and staff at Manchester Metropolitan University, where two of the editors (and several of the contributors) are privileged to work.

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Sam Edwards, Michael R. Dolski and Faye Sayer
April 2016

CONTENTS

List of figures vii

Notes on contributors ix

Acknowledgements xiii

Introduction *Sam Edwards and Amy Walling* 1

PART ONE Thinking about film and television

- 1 The moving image as primary source: Author, text and context *Michael R. Dolski* 9
- 2 The moving image as a secondary source: Truth, authenticity and narrative *Faye Sayer* 29
- 3 The moving image as memory: Past and present on screen *Sam Edwards* 45

PART TWO Using film and television: Case studies

The lens of history: Race, class and gender on screen:

- 4 'The way we are': Class and Britishness on film
Marcus Morris 65
- 5 Were fires started? Exploring gender in British cinema of the Second World War *Corinna M. Peniston-Bird* 81
- 6 Screening multicultural Britain: Blair, Britishness and *Bend It Like Beckham* *Sarah Ilott* 103
- 7 Mammy, Mandingo, Django and Solomon: A century of American slavery in cinema from *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to *12 Years a Slave* *Lydia Plath* 119

Reel life and real life: Documenting and narrating the past:

- 8 The Empire at the movies: India in newsreels, c. 1911 to 1947 *Tilman Frasch* 145
- 9 'Truth' and 'interiority': Screening and interpreting the early modern era *Jonathan Spangler* 165
- 10 Hollywood musicals make history *Nicholas Gebhardt* 185
- 11 'Moving' images: Educational uses of D-Day imagery *Michael R. Dolski* 203

PART THREE Making memory and identity: The politics and purpose of film and TV: Case studies

- 12 Superhero films and American national identity *Michael Goodrum* 235
- 13 'We will remember them': Television and British memory of the First World War, 1964–2014 *Sam Edwards* 253
- 14 Presenting the past: New directions in television history *Nicola Bishop* 277

Filmography 293

Bibliography 303

Index 331

FIGURES

- Figure 4.1 *Saturday Night, Sunday Morning* (1960) 74
- Figure 4.2 *Rita, Sue and Bob Too* (1986) 77
- Figure 5.1 Tilly and Jim converse in the train, *Waterloo Road* (1945) 85
- Figure 5.2 Confrontational civilian masculinity in *Love Story* (1944) 95
- Figure 6.1 Jess receives a red card, *Bend It Like Beckham* (2002) 110
- Figure 6.2 Cricket on the Green, *Bend It Like Beckham* (2002) 111
- Figure 7.1 *Birth of a Nation* (1916) 122
- Figure 7.2 *Glory* (1988) 133
- Figure 8.1 King George V and Queen Mary in India, 1911 150
- Figure 8.2 Gandhi in London, 1931 153
- Figure 9.1 Lavish set design in *Vatel* (2000) 173
- Figure 9.2 Elizabeth I (Helen Mirren) sits on the Thames, *Elizabeth I* (2005) 179
- Figure 10.1 Judy Garland in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) 189
- Figure 10.2 Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music* (1965) 196
- Figure 11.1 *The Longest Day* (1962) 208
- Figure 11.2 *Saving Private Ryan* (1998). The bloody realism of the movie would shock (and thrill) audiences worldwide 210

- Figure 11.3 ‘Ike’ returns to Normandy (1964). The production intensely focused on Eisenhower as he reflected on his key decisions or the experiences of soldiers and civilians 215
- Figure 11.4 Lee Marvin in *The Big Red One* (1980). The film portrays the struggles of one small squad, led by the grizzled yet adept ‘Sergeant’ (Lee Marvin), as they advance through the Mediterranean-European Theaters, including on D-Day 218
- Figure 12.1 Spider-Man as Christ, *Spider-Man 2* (2004) 244
- Figure 12.2 Spider-Man and the American flag, *Spider-Man* (2002) 246
- Figure 13.1 Field Marshal Haig (Geoffrey Palmer) clears up the casualties following an ‘attack’, *Blackadder Goes Forth* (Episode 6, BBC 1989) 265
- Figure 13.2 The memorial dedication ceremony, *Downton Abbey* (Season 5, Episode 8, 2014) 271
- Figure 13.3 The memorial dedication ceremony, *The Village* (Episode 6, BBC 2013) 272
- Figure 14.1 Historian Nigel Harting (Stephen Boxer) examines the sources. *Absolute Power*, ‘The History Man’ (BBC 2003) 279
- Figure 14.2 Tony Robinson admires the view, *Walking Through History* (Channel 4 2013) 286