



PRESS RELEASE

NEW ROUGH GUIDES NAME 50 GREATEST FILMS

Four new film guides, from travel and reference publisher Rough Guides, nominate fifty films in four genres as the world's best.

Rough Guides launches the series under the guidance of former British Film Institute Publishing Director Andrew Lockett, now Rough Guides' Reference Publishing Director. The chosen movies, representing a canon for each genre, range from *The Odd Couple* (Rough Guide to Comedy Movies) and *Reservoir Dogs* (Rough Guide to Gangster Movies) to *The Evil Dead* (Rough Guide to Horror Movies) and *Solaris* (Rough Guide to Sci-Fi Movies).

Discussing the difficulty of deciding which films to include in the canon, and which to drop, Andrew Lockett said: "We obviously don't think our choices are definitive. We recognise that other critics and readers will have divergent views. Nevertheless, each author made their own selection and stands by it."

The new Rough Guide Movies series follows successful ventures for Rough Guides into music reference publishing, including guides to Rock, Jazz and Opera; computer publishing, with the world's bestselling pocket internet guide; and companion guides to literature – the publisher has recently put out a critically acclaimed Rough Guide to Shakespeare and had a bestseller last winter with the Dan Brown-baiting Rough Guide to the Da Vinci Code.

Andrew Lockett explained: "With the film books we're realising an ambition we've had for several years to publish guides that would cover these genres with real flair. Each book covers the whole field, including the genre's film-makers and actors, websites, fanzines and festivals, and, as

IN

- ✓ Four Weddings and a Funeral
- ✓ Dodgeball

OUT

- ✗ The Full Monty
- ✗ Bridget Jones' Diary

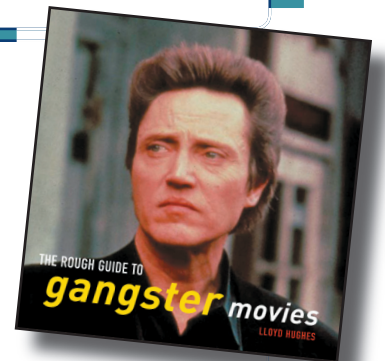


IN

- ✓ Bonnie and Clyde
- ✓ Goodfellas

OUT

- ✗ Gangs of New York
- ✗ The Road to Perdition



IN

- ✓ Dawn of the Dead
- ✓ Switchblade Romance

OUT

- ✗ The Wicker Man
- ✗ The Blair Witch Project

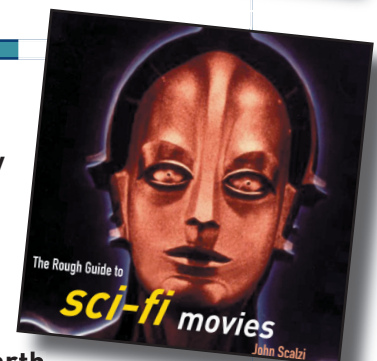


IN

- ✓ 2001: A Space Odyssey
- ✓ Contact

OUT

- ✗ The Man Who Fell To Earth
- ✗ AI: Artificial Intelligence



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well as the canon, hundreds of short reviews, including the best of the genre on the international scene – for example Thai gangster movies, African comedies, Brazilian horror or Mexican sci-fi.”

The guides are aimed at a wide audience. Andrew Lockett said: “We wanted to go further than the bland recommendations in Halliwell but they’re certainly not academic tomes. They’ll appeal to casual movie-goers as much as experts who I think will take a look at the indexes and possibly be surprised at the level of information. They give you the full picture in a handy format and lots of steers for discovering more, and you can read them at leisure or simply dip in to decide what to rent for the weekend.”

THE AUTHORS

Bob McCabe (Comedy) is a critic, broadcaster, film journalist and screenwriter.

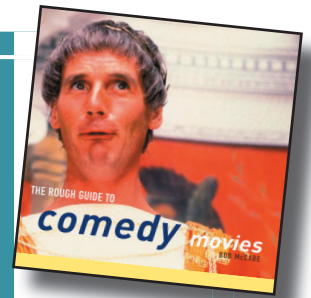
Lloyd Hughes (Gangster Movies) is a writer, broadcaster and researcher specialising in cinema of all descriptions. He started reviewing films at the age of 13 when he reviewed every movie he saw for the next 4 years – more than 1000.

Alan Jones (Horror) is a prolific critic, reporter and writer who specialises in Horror and Fantasy and is one of the organisers of the annual FrightFest Horror film festival.

John Scalzi (Sci-Fi) is a science-fiction novelist and author of the Rough Guide to the Universe.

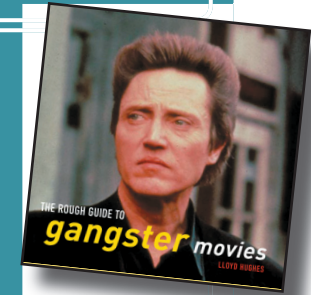
On *Dodgeball*:

“In an era in which the phrase ‘dumbing down’ has become a common complaint – levelled at everything from Jim Carrey movies to the White House – this was a movie that proved just how clever you have to be to make a supposedly dumb movie.”



On *Bonnie & Clyde*:

“It was the ending as well as the glamorization of cold-blooded killers which led most critics to condemn Bonnie and Clyde. It wouldn’t have lasted a week if critic Joe Morgenstern hadn’t decided to see it again. He made cinema history by publishing a retraction of his original review.”



On *Dawn of the Dead*:

“This audacious masterpiece earned Vietnam combat photographer and make-up artist Tom Savini the title “King of Splatter” and sent critics of the genre reeling with its clammy “No Exit” grimness and its potent social message told in an intelligent horror vernacular. . . the first horror film to suggest moving beyond impending apocalypse towards a new social order.”



On *2001*:

“Kubrick’s near-obsessive attention to detail needs no introduction; a director capable of providing actual (and long) written instructions on how to use a fictional zero-g toilet is one you can be assured will get every other tiny detail exactly right.”



Rough Guide Movie Guides are published on 29th September 2005 at £9.99 each, two-colour, illustrated throughout, square format (178mm x 178mm).

For review copies, author interviews and promotions please contact

Demelza Dallow at: Rough Guides Press Office, 80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL
020 7010 3701 • press@roughguides.com