



the genre that refused to die and the genre that 'wasn't there'

You probably couldn't get two more diverse film genres than the bright and breezy Hollywood musical and the shadowy film noir - the subjects of two new film guides from Rough Guides.

Rough Guides' Top Ten Film Musicals

1. Singin' In The Rain
2. Top Hat
3. Love Me Tonight
4. Meet Me In St Louis
5. Cabaret
6. The Wizard of Oz
7. Gold Diggers of 1933
8. My Fair Lady
9. A Star is Born
10. Nashville

The Rough Guide to Film Musicals

"The musical didn't really exist for the first thirty years of cinema history, and it's largely been out of favour with mainstream audiences for the last five decades. Yet it remains one of the most beloved movie genres and its 25 golden years continue to epitomize the romance, glamour and escapism of Hollywood entertainment."

This Rough Guide examines why the musical has endured such mixed fortunes on the road from ragtime to rap and reveals how an escapist entertainment became Hollywood's most ingenious art form. From the magic of Astaire to the pathos of Garland it profiles the musical legends who made the genre and examines the top 50 essential musicals, including Singin' In The Rain and West Side Story.

The Rough Guide to Film Noir

"Night-time city streets, an atmosphere of paranoia, a beautiful but treacherous woman, a gullible and morally weak man, a crime of passion, a crime for money: everyone knows the ingredients that make up a typical film noir, but why did such themes so fascinate Hollywood filmmakers in the period just after World War II?"

The Rough Guide to Film Noir shines a searchlight into cinema's darkest and most dangerous corner to reveal how noir developed, decade by decade. It charts the 50 essential noir films, from early masterpieces like *The Big Sleep* through neo-noir classics including *Chinatown*. Also covered are the icons, favourite locations and film noir across the globe.

Rough Guides' Top Ten Film Noir

1. Chinatown
2. Criss Cross
3. Double Indemnity
4. Touch of Evil
5. Out Of The Past
6. L.A. Confidential
7. The Big Combo
8. Kiss Me Deadly
9. The Maltese Falcon
10. The Big Sleep

The Rough Guide to Film Musicals by David Parkinson and *The Rough Guide to Film Noir* by Alexander Ballinger and Danny Jordan are both published on 31st May, £9.99 each.

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