

Cinema and Sentiment



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出版者:Send The Light

出版时间:2004-6-1

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9781842272749

What do films do to people? What do people do with films?

All film-watching happens within a cultural context. Cinema and Sentiment critically examines the practice of film watching in Western culture. Exploring cinema-going as leisure activity and by comparing film-watching with worship, Clive Marsh demonstrates aspects of the religious function of filmwatching. Through a variety of case-studies on the habit of cinema-going (including studies of the films of Robin Williams, and of the Coen brothers) Marsh’s study shows how film-watching as a regular practice can contribute to the shaping of human living.

Drawing on the ‘cognitive frameworks’ within which viewers watch films, Marsh explores the interaction between film and theology in two popular films: The Shawshank Redemption and Titanic.

Engaging with social and religious behaviour patterns in western culture, Cinema and Sentiment suggests a need to recover a positive sense of ‘sentiment’, both in theology and film. Two concluding chapters locate the text in recent studies of theology and film, offering church leaders, students of theology and film studies, and all those with an interest in contemporary culture practical consequences of the work’s findings.

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