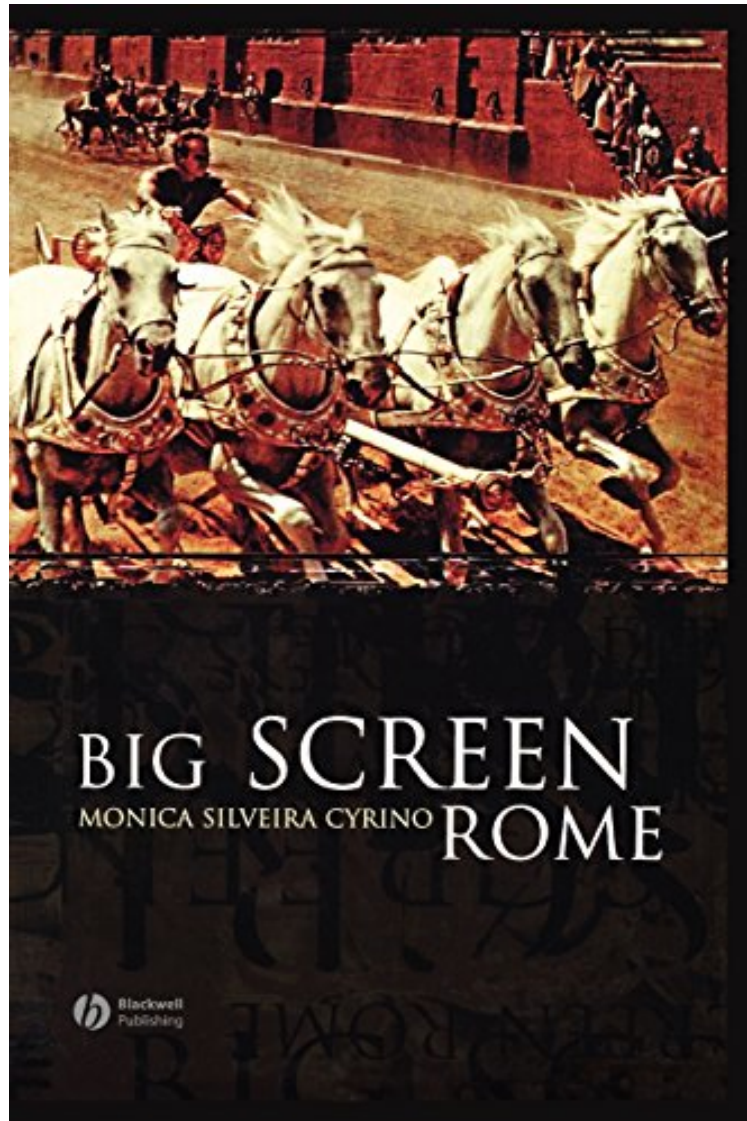


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Big Screen Rome

Monica Silveira Cyrino

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#1130176 in Books Wiley-Blackwell 2005-12-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .70 x 6.001, .93
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Monica Silveira Cyrino : Big Screen Rome before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Screen Rome:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Broader in scope would have been better By American Gothic What's written in this work is just fine, but one can't help but feel a bit cheated that I, Claudius is missing, to say nothing of HBO's Rome, the most masterful depiction of ancient Rome in perhaps any medium (yes, the title says "big screen" but most folks these days find HBO dramas more cinematic than the vast majority of contemporary movie dreck).

Some of the titles are a bit obscure, and some hardly Roman recreations (Life of Brian, for example), but all of them are nonetheless interesting and enjoyable movies, as are the detailed descriptions and analysis of them in this book. It smacks a bit of course notes that have grown into a book, and this has had the unfortunate side effect of limiting the coverage of films, and lending an overall back to school feel to the work. Even a cursory summary or list of other relevant titles and TV works (easily accomplished by List searches and IMDB searches) would have been useful. Maybe in her revised edition? If you're a hard core fan of Roman history and cinema, like I am, buy this book - you'll enjoy it despite my constructive criticisms. Otherwise, I'd suggest passing on this (or borrow it) and simply watch the movies instead, or read an engrossing history book (such as any published by Thames and Hudson on the subject). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Resource By AM. GCI will admit I'm not just giving this a good review because I was taught by Professor Monica Cyrino. I actually did have to buy and read this book (because she offered this class literally Big Screen Rome as a course at my University) It's full great information about the movies listed, even giving historical information about the events in these movies as well as information about the screen play the actors and the awards received. It's also easy to understand. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jacqueline Ladach Great for my college classes.

Big Screen Rome is the first systematic survey of the most important and popular films from the past half century that reconstruct the image of Roman antiquity. The first systematic survey of the most important and popular recent films about Roman antiquity. Shows how cinema explores, reinvents and celebrates the spectacle of ancient Rome. Films discussed in depth include Stanley Kubrick's Spartacus, Ridley Scott's Gladiator and Terry Jones's Monty Pythons Life of Brian. Contributes to discussions about the ongoing relevance of the classical world. Shows how contemporary film-makers use recreations of ancient history as commentaries on contemporary society. Structured in a way that makes it suitable for course use, and features issues for discussion and analysis, and reference to further bibliographic resources. Written in an energetic and engaging style.

"No other book on film and the classical world gives us what Big Screen Rome does: a complete format for an undergraduate course on ancient Rome in the cinema. In each well-organized and highly-readable chapter, Cyrino provides abundant information about the plots, characters, themes, actors, directors, production and reception of nine important films (from Quo Vadis to Gladiator). Each film is set against its ancient sources and background, with an interpretation and questions exploring the interplay between the ancient and modern worlds in regard to sex, religion, and politics. I look forward to using this entertaining and well-researched book in my university classroom." Margaret Toscano, University of Utah "Monica Cyrino's Big Screen Rome is a very welcome addition to the few texts available for courses that use film in the teaching of ancient Roman culture and civilization. Her scholarly, highly readable, and well-structured treatment of nine key films on ancient Rome brings together all the information necessary for the understanding of these films and the historical period they cover." Art L. Spisak, Southwest Missouri State University Big Screen Rome provides students and teachers alike with the cinema studies details, the historical and cultural backstories and the critical interpretations which they both need to see and feel, through films, the connections between the ancient and the modern worlds. Professor Cyrino brings to this very personal selection of nine films the sensitivities of a devoted teacher, scholar and fan of the lavish historical epic. Gregory N. Daugherty, Randolph-Macon College An enjoyable and informative book of interest and accessible to a wide readership This book is indeed a data-rich resource for those of us engaged in using film to identify key and historically determined features in the post classical representation of Rome Cyrino has a real sense of and sensitivity towards the many factors that combine to make these films significant in the portrayal of Rome on screen ... A stimulating companion on a number of counts to a traditionally structured pedagogical approach to Roman history. Bryn Mawr Classical "In Big Screen Rome, classical historian Monica Silveira Cyrino combines her passions for Rome, cinema and the ancient world in a user-friendly and enjoyable manual focusing on nine well known films that use the site of ancient Rome to explore contemporary issues ... It differs from previous volumes on the ancient world and cinema in its textbook-like layout, making it easily accessible to students, teachers and general readers with an interest in history ... The book does a good job in demonstration how the values, rhetoric and politics of ancient Rome have persisted as Universally important models which offer useful analogies for the exploration of the nature of power and ideology in 20th century America." Screening the Past "A welcome and timely addition" Scholia s "Big Screen Rome is written in a pleasant, jargon-free style and is immensely readable. This book should be required reading in any course dealing with images of Rome in modern film." Robert J. Rabel, University of Kentucky, Classical Outlook From the Back Cover Big Screen Rome is the first systematic survey of the most important and popular films from the past half century that reconstruct the image of Roman antiquity. The book provides in-depth discussions of a broad selection of famous films, including: Quo Vadis, Ben-Hur, Spartacus, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Monty Python's Life of Brian, and Gladiator. Big Screen Rome makes an important contribution to discussions about the ongoing relevance of the classical world, demonstrating how popular appropriations of classical antiquity on film can enrich our understanding of the classical tradition. It also shows how modern film-makers use recreations of ancient history as commentaries on

contemporary society. Written in an energetic and engaging style, the book responds to the exciting renewal of popular and scholarly interest in cinema about the ancient Roman world. About the Author Monica Silveira Cyrino is Associate Professor of Classics at the University of New Mexico. She is the author of *In Pandoras Jar: Lovesickness in Early Greek Poetry* (1995) and a contributor to *Martin Winklers Gladiator: Film and History* (Blackwell Publishing, 2004). She has appeared as an academic consultant on the television show *History vs. Hollywood* on The History Channel. She was awarded the American Philological Associations national teaching award in classics (1998-99).