

## Contemporary Action Cinema

*Lisa Purse*

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**Lisa Purse : Contemporary Action Cinema** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Contemporary Action Cinema:

Action cinema is a popular and familiar form which reflects the cultural, industrial and historical landscape from which it emerges. Lisa Purse analyses the genre's pleasures and complexities in the light of both its cinematic history and the latest critical debates. Focussing on action cinema of the 2000s, this book explores issues of visual style,

narrative, representation and the various contexts of production through a diverse series of case studies including *Avatar* (2009), *Casino Royale* (2006), *The Hurt Locker* (2008) and *Banlieue 13* (2004). Providing a groundbreaking account of the way that the spectator engages with the action body and the action narrative, and including analyses of areas of representation that have seldom received sustained attention in the past, this comprehensive study is the perfect companion to modern action cinema.

A valuable contribution to analysis of the action film, offering sustained examination of the formal qualities of action set-pieces and the ideological frameworks in which they are typically embedded. -- Geoff King, Professor of Film TV Studies, Brunel University An impressive, intelligent book which takes account of the genre's past but focuses attention on its present. Both rigorous and engaging, Purse brings our understanding of action up to date. -- Yvonne Tasker, University of East Anglia A valuable contribution to analysis of the action film, offering sustained examination of the formal qualities of action set-pieces and the ideological frameworks in which they are typically embedded. An impressive, intelligent book which takes account of the genre's past but focuses attention on its present. Both rigorous and engaging, Purse brings our understanding of action up to date. About the Author Lisa Purse is Lecturer in Film at the University of Reading