Sources: British Film Noir Guide (Review)

Robin L. Imhof, University of the Pacific

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/rimhof/14/
The volume includes several finding aids: a detailed and useful index, an alphabetical list of entries, and a less useful “Reader’s Guide,” which would have served as a topical index if page numbers had been included. The editors state that the design of their book “reflects the unpredictability and daring” (xii) of their subject, but their design for the most part is tame, with black-and-white photographs appearing throughout. The use of mirrored page numbers on odd numbered pages comes off as more unsettling than extreme.

Like a telecast of an extreme sporting event, the encyclopedia opens with a disclaimer warning that without proper training the activities described within can be dangerous. The disclaimer is warranted, as the Berkshire Encyclopedia of Extreme Sports is likely to appeal as much to prospective extreme sport athletes as it will to students and scholars. Characterizing the complex, multivariate experience of extreme sports, this work is a welcome addition to the reference literature, bringing together comprehensive information about a new and developing genre of sports and speaking to the needs and interests of a wide range of readers. This title is recommended for high school, public, and academic libraries, especially for those with significant sports collections.—Kenneth Burhanna, Head, Instructional Services, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio


As noted by editors Douglas Booth and Holly Thorpe, extreme sports are about more than risk taking, rule breaking, or having fun. Extreme sports “are also a major cultural, commercial, and media phenomenon” (ix) of increasing global interest. Booth and Thorpe, both professors in the Department of Sport and Leisure Studies at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, and avid surfers and snowboarders, provide the first serious survey of extreme sports. An outgrowth of the Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport (2005), Berkshire Encyclopedia of Extreme Sports offers multifaceted coverage of its topic, reporting on the sports and athletes on the surface of extreme sports (including such practical information as the “Rules of Mountain Bike Racing”), and also delving into underlying concepts and issues, such as history, philosophy, psychology and sociology. For example, the volume contains a lengthy essay on the Agon Motif, tracing the concept of competitive struggle from its origins in ancient Greece to its role in contemporary education.

Comprising 114 signed, alphabetically arranged entries by sports experts, the encyclopedia covers fifty types of extreme sports, provides biographies of thirty notable athletes, profiles nine sporting venues, and discusses many relevant social issues. The sports covered range from the less extreme (“Ballooning” and “Scuba Diving”) to the very extreme (“Extreme Ironing” and “Ultimate Fighting”). The entries are comprehensive, as exemplified by the entry for BASE jumping, which includes sections on technical issues, history, community, legal issues, jumping locations and events, and the future direction of the sport. The biographies are brief and less comprehensive, introducing and highlighting the achievements of extreme sports athletes, many of whom are likely unknown to the average reader, although most would recognize daredevil Evel Knievel and snow/skate boarder Shaun White. Among the venues discussed, the ESPN-produced X Games receives substantial coverage for its role in bringing extreme sports to the attention of a large mainstream audience. The volume also provides essays on several intriguing social issues. Among these are essays on “Whiteness and Extreme Sports” (most extreme athletes are white) and “Initiation/Hazing” (includes a photograph of a man participating in the common initiation ritual of “shotgunning” a beer). Sidebars are used throughout to highlight related concepts, such as extreme tourism, and to point out statistics, such as avalanche fatalities. Entries conclude with sometimes-lengthy lists of references for further reading that also include works cited within the entries. Some entries also have cross-references.
SOURCES

U.S. release title (if different), followed by the production company, director, cinematographer, screenwriter, and main actors. Each entry is enhanced by a memorable quote from the film, a rating based on the five-star system, and a brief synopsis of the film with author commentary.

Researchers will also find useful appendixes categorizing films by rating, release date, director, and cinematographer, as well as a selected bibliography and index. As there is no treatment this extensive for exclusively British films in this genre, this work is recommended for public and academic libraries supporting a film studies collection.—Robin Imhof, Reference Librarian, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

Debt Information for Teens


As a part of the Teen Finance Series, this book provides information to young adults on the responsible use of debt as a financial tool. It begins with a look at the way our country’s economic policies affect our society in general and teens in particular. Next is an in-depth look at the use and abuse of credit and methods for preventing and resolving credit problems. The volume concludes with supplementary material on credit statistics, a list of financial literacy resources, and a bibliography of additional reading.

In a similar manner with the other volumes in this series, this title includes inserted materials—“Quick Tips” and “It’s a Fact!”—and is a compilation of straightforward information previously published by a variety of sources, including the U.S. Department of Education, the Federal Trade Commission, the National Consumers League, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The format of the text makes it easy for readers to find answers to specific questions related to debt and credit as well as to see the larger context of the situation.

Many fine books dealing with financial matters for young people are available. Some speak directly to teens while others address parents and include tips for raising fiscally responsible children. Most, however, are an overview of finances in general. The title under review is specific to the areas of debt and credit.

Money: Getting It, Using It, and Avoiding the Traps: The Ultimate Teen Guide by Robin F. Brancato (Scarecrow, 2007) is an example of an appealing book written for teens. Its goal is to help teens use their money well, and it contains pertinent anecdotes and photographs.

Another title aimed at teen readers is SpendRight . . . The Smart Start for Students by Craig and Lisa Feeley (CMK, 2005). Its motivational approach advises that young adults have the choice to be financially fit and that being smart about money is fun. The workbook sections provide reader interaction.

Smart Money: How to Manage Your Cash by Danielle Denega (Franklin Watts, 2008) is part of the Scholastic Choices Series and provides teens with brief and very accessible advice on spending, saving, and debt, described in a case study format.

There are a good number of books aimed at parents of teenagers. Prodigal Sons and Material Girls: How Not to be Your Child’s ATM by Nathan Dungan (Wiley, 2003) emphasizes the effects of mass marketing on children and teens while helping