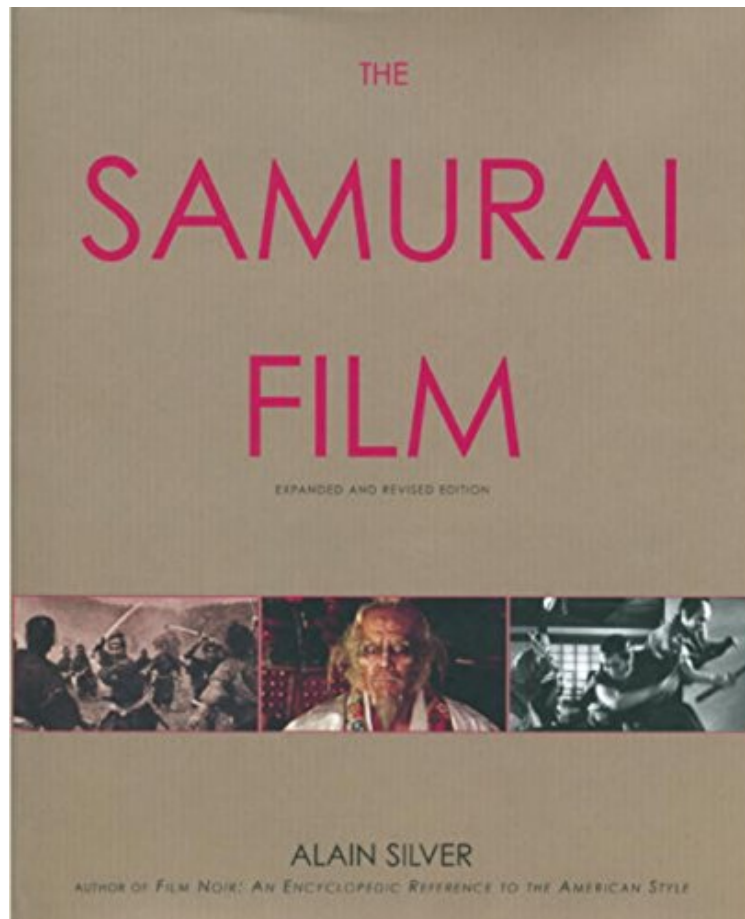


The Samurai Film

Alain Silver

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Alain Silver : The Samurai Film before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Samurai Film:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Still A Top Title for its SubjectBy Jessica SalmonsonJust a spectacular overview of the samurai film, well enough illustrated with stills, and perfect text on the subject. It's now getting to be quite an elderly classic for the subject, but fact is, it covers the entirety of a golden age, and that is lastingly just right.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book, but it really only focused on the ...By Dwayne BerryGood book, but it really only focused on the more popular samurai films. I was really hoping to find out about some movies that I hadn't seen.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Intellectualisation of the samurai film genre, if that is what you requireBy JackalIt is a fact that everything can be intellectualised. This book is valuable if you (1) like intellectualisation and (2) have already watched 20 samurai films from different time periods. Without these two criteria I would imagine that this book is very boring. The book doesn't try to be chronological, but instead focuses on different themes (e.g. the samurai in fiction, the bloody films of the 70s). The book is beautifully bound in a good quality hard cover, so it would make a perfect gift for a cineaste.

The image of a lone hero, marked by a violent past and bound by honor, has exerted an endless fascination on film audiences the world over, but nowhere more than in Japan, where Samurai films have gained legions of passionate followers. Popularized and perfected by one of the greatest auteurs in the history of cinema, Akira Kurosawa, the themes of the Samurai film have consistently crossed over into western films, with blockbuster success in recent years of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *The Last Samurai*. Long regarded as one of the world's most astute film analysts, Alain Silver deconstructs the key aspects of this vital film genre, from its focus on violence and death as a means of understanding life and the significance of swords and weaponry to key elements and motifs, such as *hara-kiri*, rebellion, and nostalgia for Japan's feudal past. With comprehensive filmographies of the major directors and films, a survey of the history and myths of the Samurai, a glossary of Japanese terms, and with more than two hundred photos, *The Samurai Film* is the ultimate resource for one of world cinema's most influential and compelling genres.

From Publishers Weekly Although the samurai, a privileged warrior class deeply enmeshed in Japanese feudal society, vanished nearly a century and a half ago with the restoration of the Meiji dynasty, the cinematic icon lives on, in one form or another, mixing history and myth in a popular and widely influential genre. By the heyday of the 1960s, works in the samurai (or *chambara*) genre by seminal directors Akira Kurosawa, Hideo Gosha and others had turned its aesthetics of violence into some of the finest specimens of narrative cinema anywhere. As new generations of cinemagoers-inspired by films like *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), *House of Flying Daggers* (2004) or Tarantino's samurai homage, *Kill Bill* (Vols. I and II)-seek out examples new and old of "the operatic complications and physical magic of the swordplay movies," they will find respected film analyst Silver's survey of enduring value. Silver's revised and expanded version of his 1977 study (first revised in 1983) offers not only close readings and discriminating assessments of major films and filmmakers but a wealth of insight into the history, philosophy and politics bearing on the *chambara* film in all its permutations and lines of influence. Complete with a generous array of photos, sophisticated filmography and glossary of Japanese terms, this volume will be an indispensable reference for serious fans and an excellent starting point for neophytes. But it's also a detailed, penetrating read for anyone interested in film history, especially as a gateway into some fascinating strains in Japanese culture and its ongoing dialogue with the West. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The definitive study of this traditional movie genre." From the Publisher From *Throne of Blood* to *Kill Bill*, the richly illustrated standard guide to one of the world's most enduring film genres.