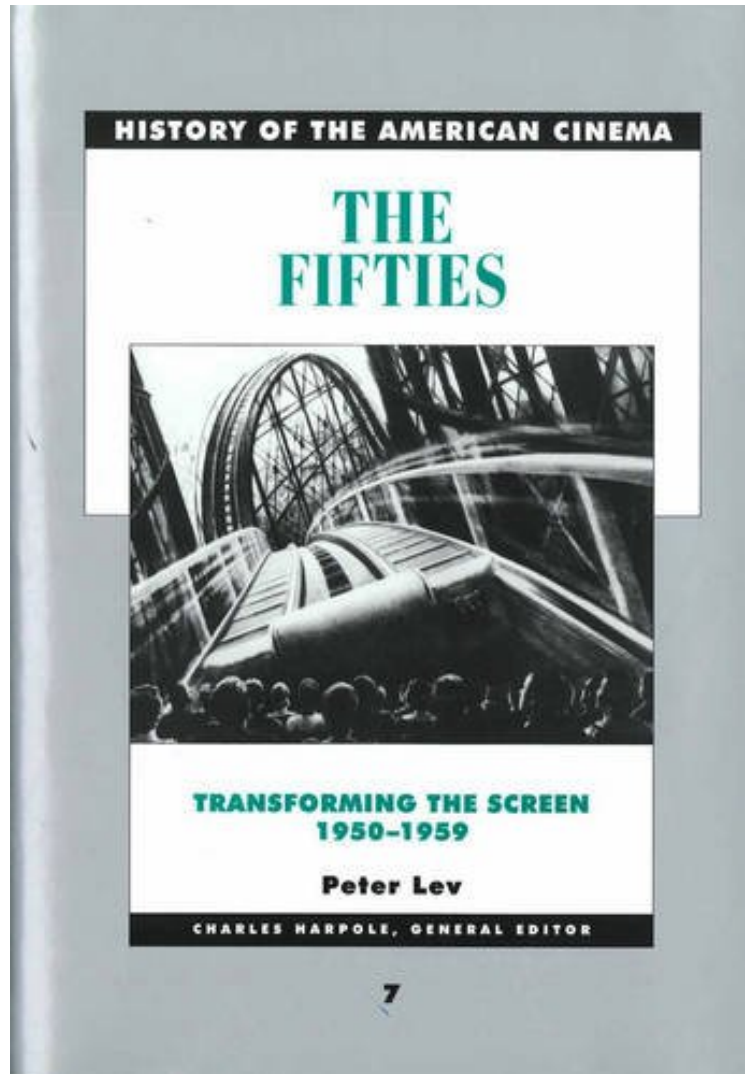


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The Fifties: Transforming the screen, 1950-1959 (History of American Cinema, vol 7)

Peter Lev

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(except for sci-fi) and he does a superb job of discussing key films in those genres. The problem lies with the "expert" chapters on special topics, such as the blacklist, censorship, the response to TV, and sci-fi films. These chapters are not written by Lev but by experts. The result is that Lev's narrative is interrupted by huge chunks of convoluted academic prose that make the reader wish that Lev had been trusted to write the whole book himself. Lev's part of the book soars. The expert chapters bring it crashing down to earth. The Fifties came in the middle of the Twentieth Century, and "The Fifties" is about the middle of this history of American film series in terms of quality. It isn't one of the best books, but it isn't one of the worst either. The annoying thing is that it could have been better. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Part of a Landmark Series on Cinema By Charles H. Harpole The Fifties is part of the landmark series created and edited by Charles H. Harpole. Each volume covers about a decade and was conceived as a readable scholarly history, each with the same coverage: the stylistic and economic factors of American feature, documentary, and avant garde cinema. The goal is to be comprehensive, judicious, and well researched without losing the love of the movies. The illustrations are particularly good in that they are often real frame enlargements or are not published elsewhere. The U. Calif. Press paperbacks are reproductions of the Scribner \$70 hardbacks and thus are a bargain. Look for the other 9 books of the Series and enjoy! 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Elizabeth Castaldo Lunden Excellent condition.

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... "a very valuable source on this key decade of film history." -- "ARBA" (2004) About the Author Peter Lev is Professor of Electronic Media and Film at Towson University and author of American Films of the 70s: Conflicting Visions.