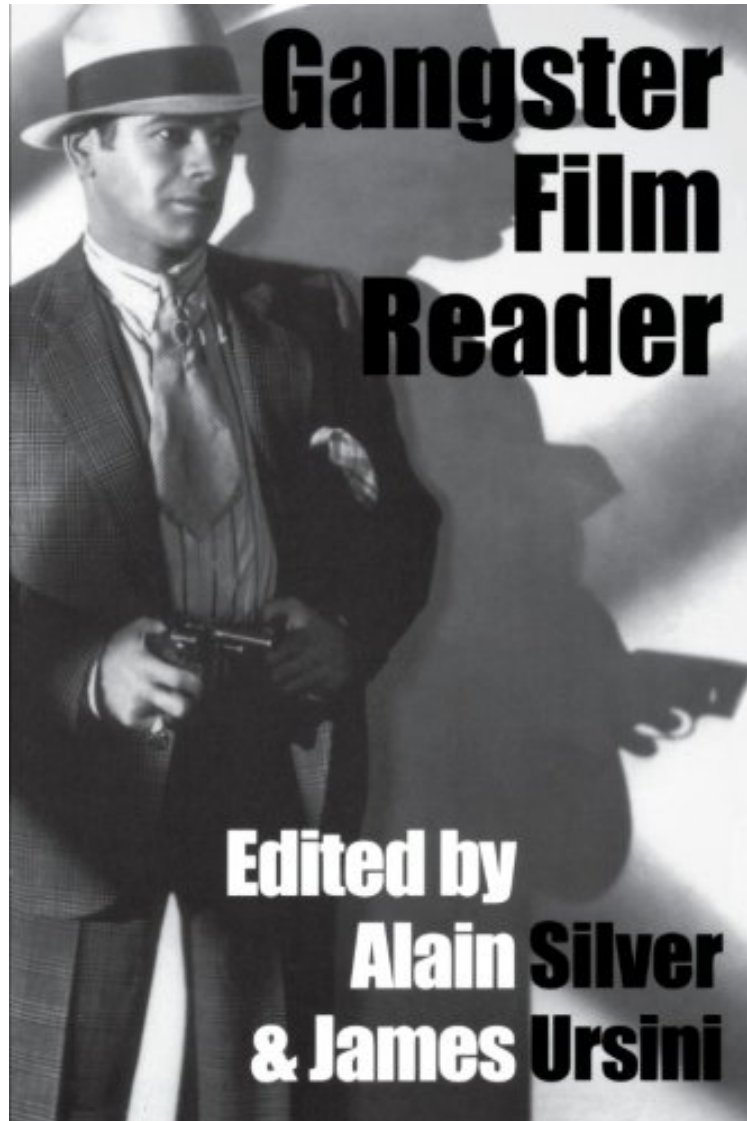


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## The Gangster Film Reader (Softcover)

*Alain Silver, James Ursini*

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**Alain Silver, James Ursini : The Gangster Film Reader (Softcover)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gangster Film Reader (Softcover):

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In the 1930s the gangster film in the United States coincided with a very real and very sensational gangsterism at large in American society. *Little Caesar* (1931), *The Public Enemy* (1931), and *Scarface* (1932) borrowed liberally from the newspapers and books of the era. With the release of just these three motion pictures in barely more than a year's time, Hollywood quintessentially defined the genre. The characters, the situations, and the icons—from fast cars and tommy-guns to fancy fedoras and fancier molls—established the audience expectations associated with the gangster film that remain in force to this day. As with their *Film Noir Reader* series, using both reprints of seminal articles and new pieces, editors Silver and Ursini have assembled a group of essays that presents an exhaustive overview of this still vital genre. Reprints of work by such well-known film historians as Robin Wood, Andrew Sarris, Carlos Clarens, Paul Schrader, and Stuart Kaminsky explore the evolution of the gangster film through the 1970s and *The Godfather*. Parts 2 and 3 comprise two dozen newer articles, most of them written expressly for this volume by Ursini and Silver. These case studies and thematic analyses, from *White Heat* to the remake of *Scarface* to "The Sopranos", complete the anthology.

**About the Author** Alain Silver is a successful film journalist and author. His articles have appeared in publications such as *Film Comment* and the *Los Angeles Times*. James Ursini is author and co-author of more than 20 film-histories. He is also a noted DVD commentator for both Fox and Warner Bros. film companies.