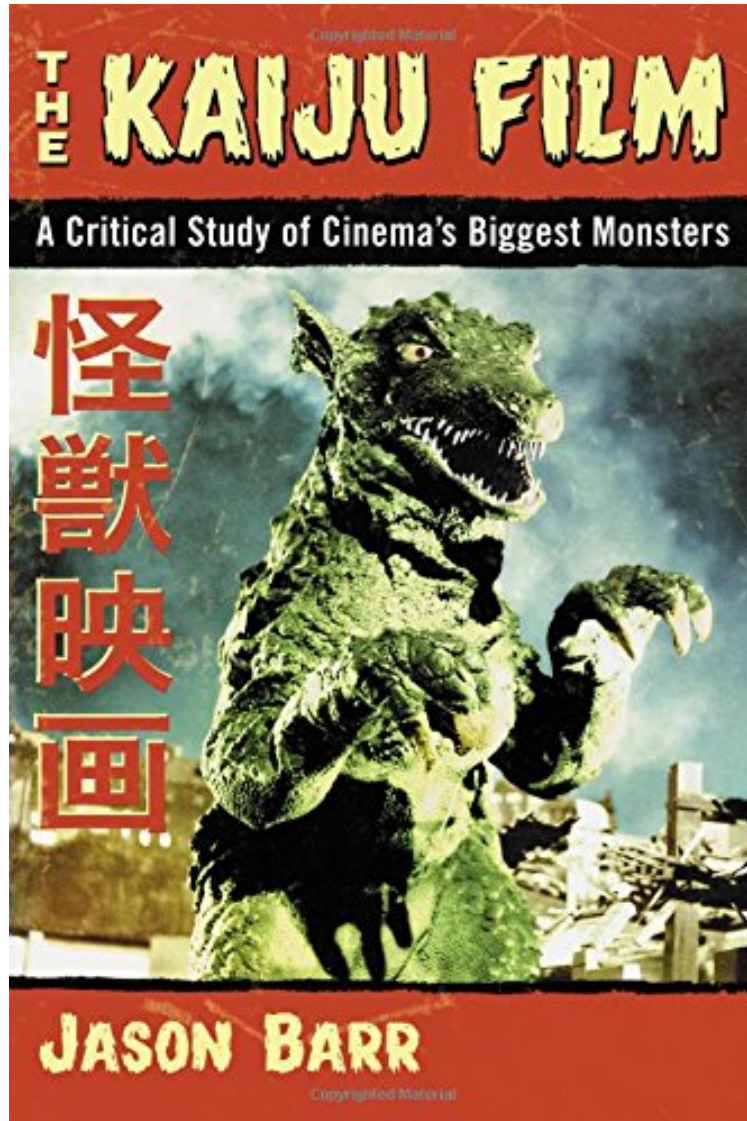


(Free) The Kaiju Film: A Critical Study of Cinema's Biggest Monsters

# The Kaiju Film: A Critical Study of Cinema's Biggest Monsters

Jason Barr

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**Jason Barr : The Kaiju Film: A Critical Study of Cinema's Biggest Monsters** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kaiju Film: A Critical Study of Cinema's Biggest Monsters:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. THE Major Text of Kaiju TheoryBy Jase ShortThis is an EXCELLENT theoretical analysis of the kaiju genre with thorough discussions of a number of important elements to these works.Barr's work is a major contribution to theoretical work in a long neglected genre that at best gets brief

theoretical treatments in the midst of histories and film reviews. We need more of this kind of work for the simple reason that this genre has resonated with tens of millions of people across more than half a century precisely because it speaks something to us that nothing else has quite managed to communicate. In particular I would recommend this work for those who are fans but wish to understand what it is about the genre that makes them and so many others fans. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent academic study of Kaiju films By Nerdimus\_Prime This was a tremendous read, especially for someone like me who is about to start a podcast examining Kaiju films. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By E. Chadwick Excellent read. As opposed to a film by film analysis, plot summary, and credit listing, which has been done very well elsewhere, this book analyses kaiju films in a socio-political historical context. This book provides a great deal of depth to a genre that is often understood in only a shallow manner. Very well researched, a brief but engaging read and a unique concept. The section on Yokai, Kabuki, Bunraku, and Noh was an excellent primer. All in all an excellent work and I hope to see more of the same.

The Kaiju (strange monster) film genre has a number of themes that go well beyond the "big monsters stomping on cities" motif. Since the seminal King Kong (1933) and the archetypal Godzilla (1954), kaiju has mined the subject matter of science run amok, militarism, capitalism, colonialism, consumerism and pollution. This critical examination of kaiju considers the entirety of the genre--the major franchises, along with less well known films like Kronos (1957), Monsters (2010) and Pacific Rim (2013). The author examines how kaiju has crossed cultures from its original folkloric inspirations in both the U.S. and Japan and how the genre continues to reflect national values to audiences.

"Jason Barr's lively and fun study (subtitled 'A critical study of the cinema's biggest monsters') is both an enthusiastic celebration of an often despised genre, written with both a fan's indulgence and a scholar's hard-core grasp of information. Ambitiously, Barr is not content to simply tackle the Japanese variety of destructive behemoth, but adduces American films such as the remarkable Kronos, with its bizarre Cubist-inspired robot machine and the much-loved British film Gorgo, with the title monster's mother, no less, laying waste to such London landmarks as Tower Bridge. For aficionados of the genre, this is splendid stuff." - DVD Choices, July 2016 About the Author Jason Barr's work has appeared in The Explicator, African American , and Stories of Complicated Grief: A Critical Anthology, among others. He lives in Harrisonburg, Virginia.