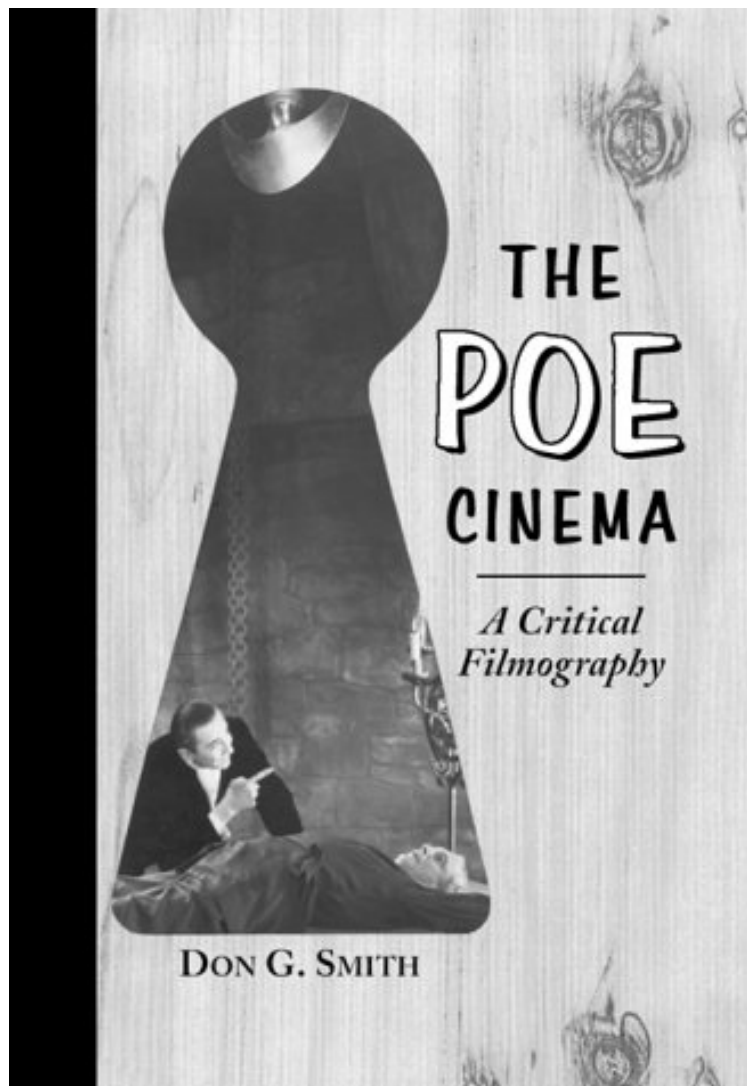


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## The Poe Cinema: A Critical Filmography of Theatrical Releases Based on the Works of Edgar Allan Poe

*Don G. Smith*

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**Don G. Smith : The Poe Cinema: A Critical Filmography of Theatrical Releases Based on the Works of Edgar Allan Poe** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Poe Cinema: A Critical Filmography of Theatrical Releases Based on the Works of Edgar Allan Poe:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. excellent made book about the films of Edgar Allan Poe By Cyberbambi123 Since 1908 there have been more than 85 films from more than 13 countries based on the work of

Poe - this book covers them all. It's excellent researched and good written - the author has viewed most of them personally. There is also a included list of poe-inspired films, poe-films by country of origin, poe titles and films adapted from them and a bibliography. In one word: a reference source book. The only negative point is perhaps the only small amount of pictures.

Who can forget haunting tales like *The Oblong Box*, *Murders in the Rue Morgue*, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, and *Torture Garden*? This is a critical filmography of the 81 features from 13 countries that have adapted the literary works of Edgar Allan Poe. Each entry includes the title of the work, year of release, studio, full cast and credits, running time, and a detailed plot synopsis. Production and marketing notes first examine the degree to which the film is faithful to Poes original work. Pertinent career information for the primary actors and filmmakers, anecdotes and perspectives from the principals, and an overview of the marketing of the movie are next provided. A thorough critical analysis, including contemporary reviews of the film, completes each entry.

From Library Journal  
Smith's second foray into horror (following Lon Chaney, Jr., McFarland, 1996) examines 81 Poe-based theatrical features released between 1908 and 1992 from 31 countries. Nontheatrical productions are not addressed, although select made-for-TV productions receive mention. Each entry includes production information, credits and cast, story synopsis, production and marketing history, and excellent multipage critiques longer than those normally found in horror guides. Good illustrations, particularly from pre-World War II films, add to the overall quality. However, as Smith limits commentary to films personally viewed, some films (e.g., D.W. Griffith's *The Sealed Room*) are shortchanged. In general, however, this is a fine companion volume to Ronald Smith's *Poe in the Media* (Garland, 1990). Recommended for all horror film collections.  
?Anthony J. Adam, Prairie View AM Univ. Lib., Houston  
Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "a better balanced view of Poe and film would be hard to imagine. ...all the detail one would hope to find, and often a good bit more. ...humor, style, insight, and, best of all, an obvious love for the works at hand" -- *Scarlet Street*"a first rate reference book and a must for film scholars and horror fans" -- *Cult Movies*"a solid reference work. ...well researched and carefully documented...dissects its subject matter from a variety of useful angles" -- *Film History*"a solid reference work...well researched and carefully documented" -- *Film History*"fans interested in the history of movie adaptations of Edgar Allan Poe will be well-served by this handy new overview. ...sound analyses" -- *Fangoria*"hard to put down" -- *Movie Collectors World*"highly recommended...well researched...a gem of a book" -- *Shivers*"in-depth" -- *The Intelligencer Record*"in-depth" -- *The Intelligencer Record*"the reader with an interest in Poe, horror films or the history of cinema will want to consult this book" -- *ForeWord Magazine*  
About the Author  
Don G. Smith is an associate professor in history and philosophy of education at Eastern Illinois University. In addition to his book, *Lon Chaney, Jr.* (1996, \$37.50), he has written for numerous publications, including *Filmfax*, *Scarlet Street*, *Movie Collector's World*, *Color Collector's Guide*, and *Midnight Marquee*. He lives in Charleston, Illinois.