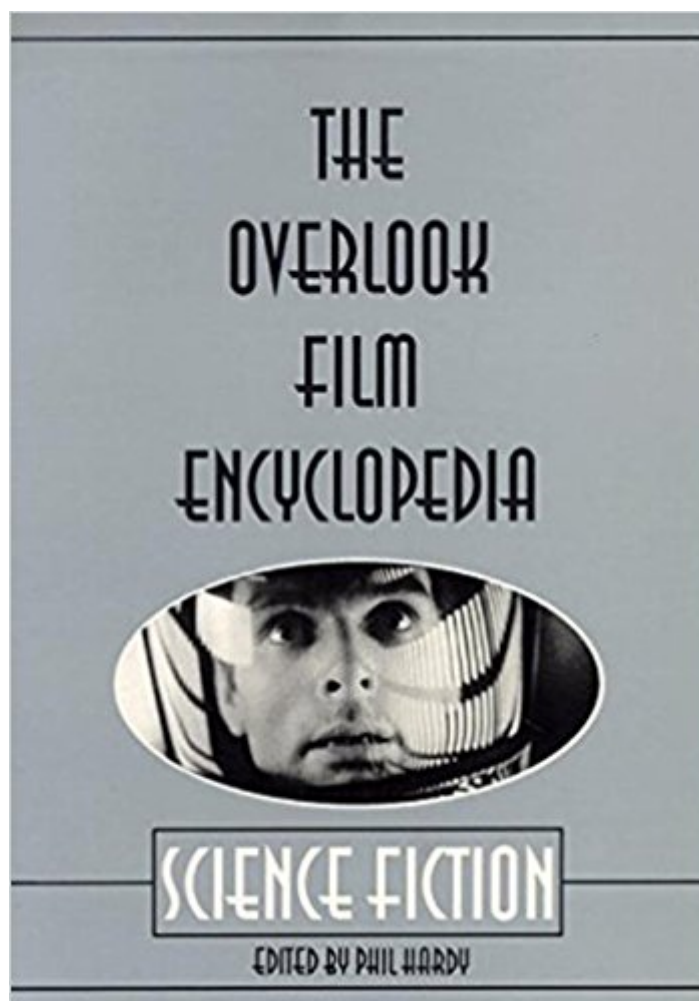


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# The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Science Fiction



## Synopsis

Since the initial publication of the first three groundbreaking volumes -- Horror, Science Fiction, and The Western -- The Overlook Film Encyclopedia series has been deemed the most authoritative, stylish, and compulsively readable film reference series ever. In The Gangster Film, series editor Phil Hardy has created yet again a landmark in film reference. Included in this lavish volume are critical entries on more than 1,500 gangster films, complete with plot synopses and credits, and 650 black and white photographs to capture the look of this exciting genre. Arranged chronologically, The Gangster Film offers deliciously opinionated and detailed descriptions, statistical information, credits and trivia from early classics such as Public Enemy, Key Largo, Dragnet, and On the Waterfront to contemporary blockbusters such as The Grifters, Chinatown, The Godfather, and Pulp Fiction. Essential, authoritative, and entertaining, The Gangster Film is the guide for serious students of film, film buffs, and home viewers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This encyclopedia of science fiction movies is the most comprehensive and perhaps the best of Phil Hardy's collection (check out The Western and Horror as well). It provides excellent commentary on the hundreds of science fiction films made between 1895 and 1994. Each review also lists the movie's director, star, writer, and most important technical credits. Hardy's treatment of the genre runs the gamut from the sublime to the absurd, covering classics such as Metropolis and Things to Come, popular favorites such as Star Wars and E.T., and the silly excesses of Dr. Breedlove and

The Man with Two Brains. The volume also includes a list of science fiction rental champs and important writers and critics' nominees for the best sci-fi films of all time.

This magnificent, fully illustrated volume contains critical accounts and complete statistical information on nearly 1,500 science fiction films, from the genre's beginnings, with such classics as Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* to the state of the art films of the '90s. *The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Science Fiction* is also the first book to be fully international in scope, with films from not only the United States and Europe, but also Japan, Australia, Russia, and South Korea. Appendices include critics' top tens, top-grossing science films and science fiction Oscar winners. -- *Midwest Book Review* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have looked for some time for a book which offers synopsis descriptions of science fiction movies. this one is a good start. It also provides by decades, the history through this film genre too. not hugely detailed if you are in to that sort of thing, but it is interesting and a good reference for those of us who like to know "just enough" about a subject and allows exploration through its references to more detailed movies, directors, etc. if so desired.

I bought an earlier edition of this book about 20 years ago in a bookstore (before the Internet)and read it until the binding broke and the pages came apart. I recently re-discovered this fantastic book and it was like finding a long lost friend. I checked to make sure what errors I found in the first edition were fixed, and indeed they were. Now, I'm reading it again, and I have to say I couldn't be happier with it. Fantastic reviews, great pictures. If you like historical sci-fi (thru the mid-90's) this book is for you. With the price of many of these films so affordable now on DVD, this is a great resource. There is nothing not to like about this book.

You can spend hours browsing through this encyclopedia. Of course you will recognize many of the classic. Yet you may be surprised at the multitude of great films that you missed. There are better descriptions and stills than you find in most of the genre magazines. Contents: THE EARLY YEARS: Innocent Beginnings (1895-1919) THE TWENTIES: Dark Visions and Brash Adventure THE THIRTIES: Mad Scientists and Comic Book Heroes THE FORTIES: Science Fiction Eclipsed THE FIFTIES: Science Fiction Reborn THE SIXTIES: Science Fiction Respectable THE SEVENTIES: Big Budgets and Big Bucks THE EIGHTIES: Science Fiction Triumphant I am not going to bore you with the list of my favorites but I challenge you not to find one of yours.

This great encyclopedia was published in 1995. The Overlook Film Encyclopedias have been great books for film fans. Hundreds of science fiction films from 1895 to 1989 are examined (some films from the early '90's also make the list). Includes Metropolis, Things to Come, Star Wars, E.T., and many others. The real benefit is that this is one of few film books to extensively review sci-fi films from 1970 to the early '90's. Although this review book is slightly dated, the price has come down and provides good value for \$25. The Overlook Sci-Fi Encyclopedia is much more affordable than *The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Horror* which is recommended for horror freaks. Both books have managed to hold their value well.

The Early Years: Innocent Beginnings (1895-1919)  
The 20's: Dark Visions and Brash Adventure  
The 30's: Mad Scientists and Comic Book Heroes  
The 40's: Science Fiction Eclipsed  
The 50's: Science Fiction Reborn  
The 60's: Science Fiction Respectable  
The 70's: Big Budgets and Big Bucks  
The 80's: Science Fiction Triumphant

Buy this book.

A decent book that, with some better editing could have been superb. Read it carefully and the reader will discover a wealth of errors, which is why it's only getting three stars. Mine was unfortunately destroyed by water, which was too bad as I'd highlighted all the errors within, and there were quite a few. Isn't it time for a new edition?

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I am not going to bore you with the list of my favorites but I challenge you not to find one of yours.

I've had this excellent book for several years, and I still go back to it at least once a month to look something up. There is simply no more complete reference guide to science fiction films available. Think you know science fiction cinema? Prepare to be humbled by the sheer volume of this book. I especially appreciate the reviews of the early, silent films, many of which we will probably never get to see. Some of the reviews are better thought-out than others. And you may occasionally marvel at

how a film you were sure was an all-time classic only gets a mediocre review. But these are minor quibbles for an otherwise excellent volume. If you're a fan of sci-fi films, you absolutely **MUST** own this book. Yes, it's pricey, but it also might be the last film reference book you will ever need.

Like the *The Overlook Film Encyclopedia: Horror*, this is an excellent resource for worldwide sci-fi films. However, it only covers films up to the mid-90s. There is also some confusion over what is horror vs. what is sci-fi, for example, *Night of the Living Dead* is listed in this book, not *Horror*, because of the whole Venus probe radiation theory voiced in a newscast within that film. This radiation theory was discarded in later *Dead* films, so *Dawn of the Dead* and *Day of the Dead* (the originals, not the remakes), are listed in the *Horror Encyclopedia*. I found this very annoying, but aside from that and a few other films I thought belonged in *Horror*, this book really nails it. Cast and crew, run times, plot summaries, critical reviews (a bit dry and on the academic side, but still interesting)... it's like having your own personal IMDB on your bookshelf, which this book and its companion volumes (*Horror*, *Western*, *Gangster*, *Film Noir*) were in those heady days before the internet. Like all the other *Overlook Film Encyclopedias*, this is definitely a beautiful, high quality volume that makes a perfect gift for any sci-fi fan.

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