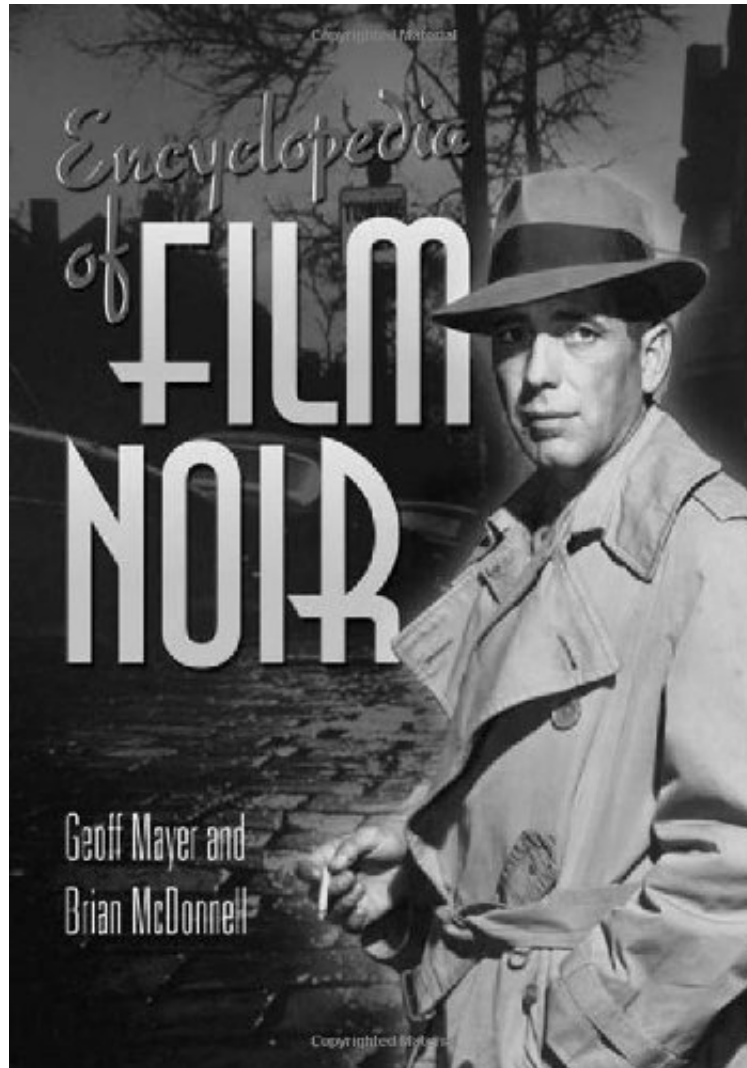


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Encyclopedia of Film Noir

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Geoff Mayer, Brian McDonnell : Encyclopedia of Film Noir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Film Noir:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent sholarly review of the film noir genreBy Phillip O.This encyclopedia of film noir is divided into two parts. Part 1 contains five lengthy essays and include: "Introduction: Readings on Film Noir," "The Hard-Boiled Influence," "Film Noir and the City," "McCarthyism, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and the Caper Film," and "Film Noir Style." Part Two contains general entries on films, actors and directors. Each entry is generally one to two pages and covers both films and individuals from the

classic era as well as the modern era. Recent films like "Memento," "Croupier" and "Blood Simple" are included. Film entries include full synopsis and includes spoilers. Some black and white film stills are included but not all are entries are illustrated. Entries on individuals do not include a photo. There are approximately 130 entries, not comprehensive, but what is contained here is quite excellent.

When viewers think of film noir, they often picture actors like Humphrey Bogart playing characters like Sam Spade in *The Maltese Falcon*, the film based on the book by Dashiell Hammett. Yet film noir is a genre much richer. The authors first examine the debate surrounding the parameters of the genre and the many different ways it is defined. They discuss the Noir City, its setting and backdrop, and also the cultural (WWII) and institutional (the House UnAmerican Activities Committee, and the Production Code Administration) influences on the subgenres. An analysis of the low budget and series film noirs provides information on those cult classics. With over 200 entries on films, directors, and actors, the *Encyclopedia of Film Noir* is the most complete resource for film fans, students, and scholars.

"Film authorities Mayer and McDonnell deliver a well-researched, comprehensive guide to film noir history. The first part of the encyclopedia provides five excellent essays on the genre, complete with references, and the second part has entries on films, actors, and directors. Covering both the classical film noir cycle (1939-59) and the modern neo-noir period (1959-present), this work assesses many old standards (*High Sierra*, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*) and modern films (*Body Heat*, *Chinatown*). In addition, it covers low-budget films, black films, and representative British films. Big name actors and directors (Bogart, Stanwyck, Hitchcock) are profiled, as are some unlikely minor ones like Hugh Beaumont. Most entries vary in length from one to three pages, but the genre essays are much longer. This one is hard to beat because of its broad focus, scholarly but readable style, and good organization. The essays on the film noir genre will appeal to academic libraries with film studies programs and public libraries with film aficionados. Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers." - Choice "This is one of those rich resource books that's fun to have around, because you can open it to just about any page and find lively musings on a particular film or artist associated with noir. The writing is accessible, concise, and never pretentious, unlike other film-noir encyclopedias I've come across. Ultimately, the authors make a good point: you can't simplify noir." - The Santa Fe New Mexican "This work is highly recommended for academic and public libraries supporting film studies collections." - American Reference Books Annual "This is an essential book on any courses devoted to film studies and the cinema and, indeed, the essays will be excellent material for study in literary studies that include detective novels. The encyclopedia will be of interest in the public library for general readers, who will find details of their favourite 1940's films, even if some general readers may find the essays rather too academically inclined. Another marvellous film book!" - Reference s "New Zealand-based film studies scholars Mayer and McDonnell list and describe approximately 130 films, actors, and directors of the film noir genre in alphabetically arranged entries. Along with classics such as Hitchcock's works, *Chinatown*, and *Sunset Boulevard*, this highly cross-referential text discusses newer noir such as *Shallow Grave* and *Memento*. Five essays open the book and expound on themes including noir's reflection on the McCarthy era and the influence of hard boiled detective fiction on the films of Bogart and his ilk." - Reference Research Book News About the Author Geoff Mayer is a Reader and Associate Professor in Cinema Studies at La Trobe University. He is Head of the School of Communications, Arts and Critical Enquiry. His previous books include: *Roy Ward Baker*, and *the Guide to British Cinema* (Greenwood, 2003). Brian McDonnell is an experienced film teacher and researcher with a PhD from the University of Auckland. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Film Studies and Program Co-ordinator in Media Studies at the Auckland campus of Massey University in New Zealand. His previous publications include the book *Fresh Approaches to Film* (1998) and chapters in the Italian Encyclopaedias *Storia del Cinema Mondiale* and *Dizionario del registi del cinema mondiale*. He has achieved a high profile as an international television quiz contestant. Brian's ancestry goes back to Ireland and to Maori iwi (tribe) Tuhoe.