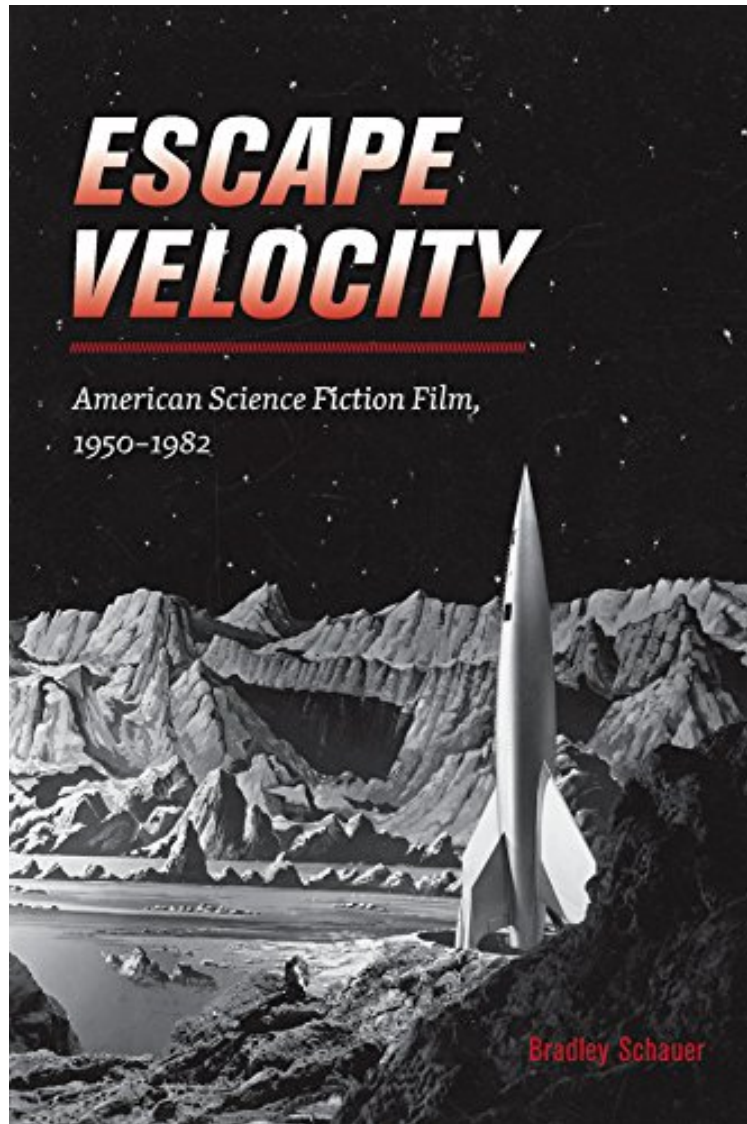


(Ebook free) Escape Velocity: American Science Fiction Film, 1950-1982 (Wesleyan Film)

## Escape Velocity: American Science Fiction Film, 1950-1982 (Wesleyan Film)

*Bradley Schauer*

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**Bradley Schauer : Escape Velocity: American Science Fiction Film, 1950-1982 (Wesleyan Film)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Escape Velocity: American Science Fiction Film, 1950-1982 (Wesleyan Film)*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A useful historyBy Uke EnthusiastAnyone interested in postwar American SF film (from 1950-1982), whether a student, a scholar, or a fan, will probably enjoy Schauer's study.

Schauer does a fine job helping his reader understand the SF film within the context and operations of the U.S. film industry in view of technological and business practices. This is a significant book that drives home the aftermath of the break-up of the studio system.

Today, movie theaters are packed with audiences of all ages marveling to exciting science fiction blockbusters, many of which are also critically acclaimed. However, when the science fiction film genre first emerged in the 1950s, it was represented largely by exploitation horror films lurid, culturally disreputable, and appealing to a niche audience of children and sci-fi buffs. How did the genre evolve from B-movie to blockbuster? *Escape Velocity* charts the historical trajectory of American science fiction cinema, explaining how the genre transitioned from eerie low-budget horror like *It Came from Outer Space* to art films like *Slaughterhouse-Five*, and finally to the extraordinary popularity of hits like *E.T.* Bradley Schauer draws on primary sources such as internal studio documents, promotional materials, and film reviews to explain the process of cultural, aesthetic, and economic legitimation that occurred between the 1950s and 1980s, as pulp science fiction tropes were adapted to suit the tastes of mainstream audiences. Considering the inescapable dominance of today's effects-driven blockbusters, *Escape Velocity* not only charts the history of science fiction film, but also gives an account of the origins of contemporary Hollywood.

Expertly, Bradley Schauer chronicles science fiction's move from pulpy, nerdy sub-genre to the mainstream, even perhaps the absolute center, of Hollywood cinema today. Through rigorous research, Schauer insightfully revises standard conceptions of genre and productively revises how we do film history. (Dana Polan, New York University) More than just another genre study, this history reveals the special effects of an entire media industry, showing how the producers, audiences, and technologies of SF film laid an analog groundwork for our contemporary world of transmedia blockbusters. (Bob Rehak, Swarthmore College) About the Author BRADLEY SCHAUER is assistant professor in the School of Theatre, Film Television at the University of Arizona. His articles have appeared in *Film History*, *The Velvet Light Trap*, and *The Quarterly of Film and Video*.