

Dying to Belong: Gangster Movies in Hollywood and Hong Kong

Martha P. Nochimson



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This fascinating book begins with a new definition of the gangster film and a challenging exploration of the Hong Kong and Hollywood screen traditions.

- Illuminates the way gangster films deal with the ambiguities of modern life, correcting the notion that this genre is inconsequential sensationalism
- Contends that both American and Hong Kong gangster films are against-the-grain reactions to the central fable of modern democracies that promise immigrant (and other) outsiders that they can become social insiders
- Clarifies crucial and fascinating differences between American and Hong Kong approaches to enjoining the discussion of immigrant histories by placing them in counterpoint with each other
- Draws on a range of American films, ranging from *Public Enemy* and *Scarface* to *Gangs of New York*, *Goodfellas*, and *The Godfather*
- Explores a number of Hong Kong's 21st century gangster films, including Andrew Lau's great trilogy, *Infernal Affairs*, and *Election* and *Election 2*, directed by Hong Kong auteur Johnnie To
- Concludes with an exclusive interview with The Sopranos' creator, David Chase

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