

Teen Movies | Columbia University Press

cup.columbia.edu/book/teen-movies/9780231206211

Timothy Shary

December 24, 2015

ISBN: 9780231206211

Pub Date: October 2023

184 Pages

Cinema has always engaged with the experiences, hopes, fears, and anxieties of—and about—adolescents, teenagers, and young people. This book is a comprehensive and accessible history of the depiction of teenagers in American film, from the silent era to the twenty-first century.

Timothy Shary explores the development of teenage roles across eras and industrial cycles, such as the juvenile delinquent pictures of the 1950s, the beach movies of the 1960s, the horror films of the 1980s, and the fantasy epics of the 2000s. He considers the varied genres of the teen movie—horror and melodrama, romance and adventure, fantasy and science fiction—and its shifting themes and tropes around sex and gender, childhood and adulthood, rebellion and social order, crime and consumer culture. *Teen Movies* features analyses of films such as *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955), *Splendor in the Grass* (1961), *Carrie* (1976), *The Breakfast Club* (1985), *American Pie* (1999), and the *Twilight* series (2008–2012).

This second edition is updated throughout and features a new chapter examining Millennials and Generation Z on screen, with discussions of many contemporary topics, including queer youth in movies like *Moonlight* (2016), abortion in films such as *Never Rarely Sometimes Always* (2020), and the flourishing of a “tween” cinema as seen in *Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret.* (2023).