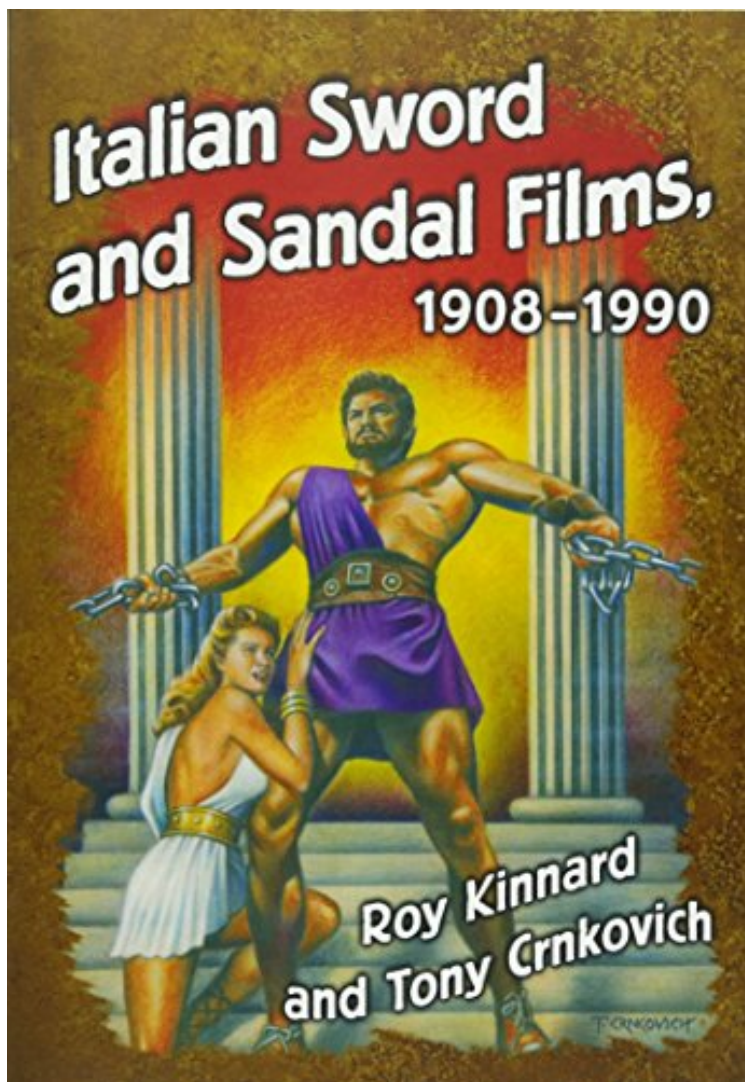


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Italian Sword and Sandal Films, 1908-1990

Roy Kinnard, Tony Crnkovich

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Roy Kinnard, Tony Crnkovich : Italian Sword and Sandal Films, 1908-1990 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Italian Sword and Sandal Films, 1908-1990:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great Asset For Peplum FansBy William AmazziniOver the past decade, Euro film fans have seen excellent tomes on Italian genre cinema with studies on Gothic Horror, Euro Spy and the Western. Now author Roy Kinnard with the assistance of Tony Crnkovich have embraced the Sword and Sandal genre with a much neededoverview of the countless titles released after the success of Director Pietro Francisci's 'HERCULES' aka 'LE FATICHE DI ERCOLE'-1958. The book is presented in two chapters "The Silent Era ' and 'The Sound Era' as the films are listed in alphabetical order beginning with the US title followed by their aka titles and

extensive cast and credits making this book a comprehensive checklist on the genre. Graced with rare photos and poster art, the only quibble I have with the book is its lack of commentary on the films themselves. For fans who wish to seek out some titles, the commentaries on plot synopsis are kept to a minimum. We never get to read if the film is worth viewing as there are scant opinions offered on the films' qualities or lack thereof, however, the book is a necessity for encompassing the massive list of titles within the genre.

Produced in Italy from the turn of the 20th century, "sword and sandal" or peplum films were well received in the silent era and attained great popularity in the 1960s following the release of *Hercules* (1959), starring Mr. Universe Steve Reeves. A global craze for Bronze Age fantasy-adventures ensued and the heroic exploits of Hercules, Maciste, Samson and Goliath were soon a mainstay of American drive-ins and second-run theaters (though mainly disparaged by critics). By 1965, the genre was eclipsed by the spaghetti western, yet the 1960s peplum canon continues to inspire Hollywood epics. This filmography provides credits, cast and comments for dozens of films from 1908 through 1990.

About the Author Roy Kinnard is the author of many books on such topics as Flash Gordon, science fiction serials, Fay Wray, horror, silent films and Willis O'Brien. His essay on the Flash Gordon serials, written at the invitation of the Library of Congress, appears on the website of the National Film Registry. He lives in Chicago. Commercial artist Tony Crnkovich, co-author (with Kinnard) of *The Films of Fay Wray* and *The Flash Gordon Serials*, has produced movie-related artwork and written articles for *Classic Images*. He lives in Chicago.