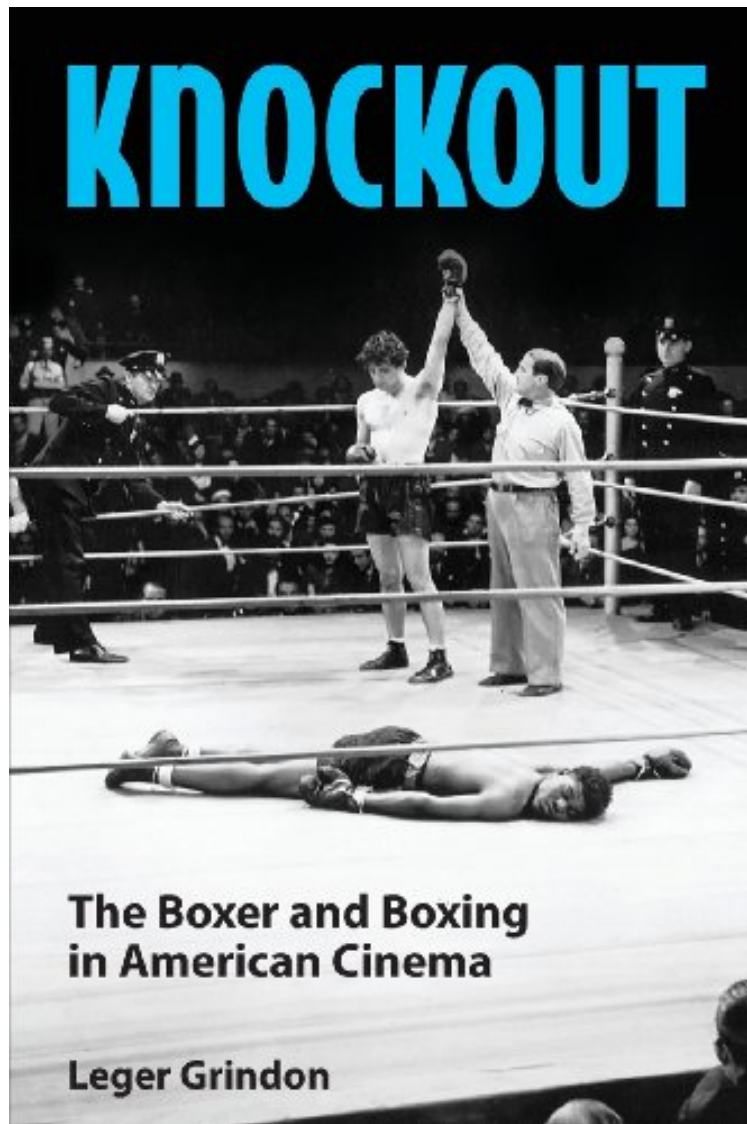


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Knockout: The Boxer and Boxing in American Cinema

Leger Grindon

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Leger Grindon : Knockout: The Boxer and Boxing in American Cinema before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Knockout: The Boxer and Boxing in American Cinema:

The boxer stands alongside the cowboy, the gangster, and the detective as a character that shaped America's ideas of manhood. Knockout: The Boxer and Boxing in American Cinema is the first book-length study of the Hollywood

boxing film, a popular movie entertainment since the 1930s, that includes such classics as *Million Dollar Baby*, *Rocky*, and *Raging Bull*. Leger Grindon relates the Hollywood boxing film to the literature of Jack London, Ernest Hemingway, and Clifford Odets; the influence of ring champions, particularly Joe Louis and Muhammad Ali; and controversies surrounding masculinity, race, and sports. *Knockout* breaks new ground in film genre study by focusing on the fundamental dramatic conflicts uniting both documentary and fictional films with compelling social concerns. The boxing film portrays more than the rise and fall of a champion; it exposes the body in order to reveal the spirit. Not simply a brute, the screen boxer dramatizes conflicts and aspirations central to an American audience's experience. This book features chapters on the conventions of the boxing film, the history of the genre and its relationship to famous ring champions, and self-contained treatments of thirty-two individual films including a chapter devoted to *Raging Bull*.

A very smart and accessible study of an important Hollywood genre. Grindon's knowledge of the social and historical background of boxing informs his excellent analysis of the films. Aaron Baker, Arizona State University, author of *Contesting Identity: Sports in American Film* Leger Grindon's knowledgeable and astute look at the boxing film is a model of genre criticism. He has managed to say fresh and interesting things about an important group of films, some well-known, some less known than they should be. His analyses are informed and insightful. Not only is this the definitive work on the boxing film; it has valuable things to say about film genre generally and about the role of genre criticism. Edward Buscombe, author of *Injuns! Native Americans in the Movies* From the Inside Flap A study of Hollywood's continuing fascination with the sweet science About the Author Leger Grindon, Middlebury, Vermont, is a professor of film studies at Middlebury College where he has taught since 1987. He is the author of *Shadows on the Past: Studies in the Historical Fiction Film* and *Hollywood Romantic Comedy: Conventions, History, Controversies*.