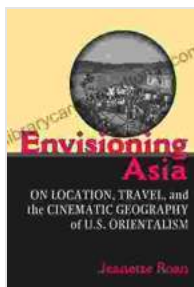


On Location: Unveiling the Cinematic Landscape of Orientalism

Throughout history, the concept of "orientalism" has played a profound role in shaping Western perceptions of Eastern and non-Western cultures. Edward Said's seminal work, "Orientalism," exposed the inherent power imbalance and cultural bias that this discourse perpetuated. In the realm of cinema, the concept of orientalism has manifested itself in a visual language that both reflects and perpetuates these preconceived notions.

"On Location: Travel and the Cinematic Geography of Orientalism" is a comprehensive examination of this phenomenon. This groundbreaking book by Dr. Michael G. Lacy analyzes the ways in which orientalist themes have been visually depicted in cinema, exploring how these representations have evolved over time and influenced our understanding of the world.



Envisioning Asia: On Location, Travel, and the Cinematic Geography of U.S. Orientalism by Jeanette Roan

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2636 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 280 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Orientalism on the Silver Screen

The book begins by examining the historical origins of orientalism in Western literature and art. It then traces the emergence of orientalist imagery in early cinema, where exotic locations and stereotypical characters were employed to create a sense of adventure and intrigue. Dr. Lacy argues that these early films laid the foundation for a cinematic geography of orientalism that would continue to shape Western perceptions of the East for decades to come.

From the Desert to the City

The book delves into the specific ways in which orientalism has been visually represented in different cinematic genres. From the barren deserts of *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) to the bustling streets of *Casablanca* (1942), Dr. Lacy analyzes how these locations and their accompanying cultural tropes have perpetuated orientalist narratives.

The Role of Landscape

One of the most striking aspects of the book is its detailed examination of the role of landscape in orientalist cinema. Dr. Lacy argues that landscapes are not mere backdrops in these films, but rather active participants that amplify the themes and characters. The vast, unforgiving desert, for instance, often represents a hostile and alienating environment that reinforces Western perceptions of the East as dangerous and uncivilized.

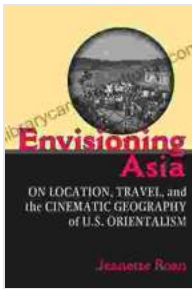
Beyond the Exotic

While the book focuses primarily on the perpetuation of orientalist themes in cinema, it also acknowledges the ways in which some filmmakers have challenged these representations. From Satyajit Ray's (*Pather Panchali*, 1955) nuanced depiction of Indian culture to Abbas Kiarostami's (*Taste of Cherry*, 1997) exploration of Iranian society, the book highlights how filmmakers from non-Western perspectives have subverted orientalist tropes to present more authentic and complex narratives.

Impact on Western Culture

The book concludes by examining the broader impact of orientalist cinema on Western culture. It argues that these films have not only shaped our understanding of the East but have also reinforced Western values and identities. By perpetuating stereotypes and power imbalances, orientalist cinema has contributed to the cultural divide that exists between the West and the non-West.

"On Location: Travel and the Cinematic Geography of Orientalism" is a meticulously researched, thought-provoking exploration of a complex and fascinating subject. Dr. Michael G. Lacy's insightful analysis and nuanced understanding provide a valuable contribution to the field of film studies and cultural history. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding the ways in which orientalism has shaped our visual and cultural landscape.



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