



French Cinema in the 1980s: Nostalgia and the Crisis of Masculinity

Phil Powrie

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French film in the 1980s might have lacked the invention of the New Wave but gritty police thrillers and nostalgic costume-dramas such as Jean de Florette and Manon des Sources brought French cinema to a wider audience than ever before. This landmark study is not merely a history of French film in the 1980s, but offers a set of critical essays on the crisis of masculinity in contemporary French culture, and its interrelationship with nostalgia. After a brief overview both of the crisis in the French film industry during the 1980s, and of the socio-political crisis of masculinity in the wake of 1970s feminism, the book is divided into three sections: the retro-nostalgic film, the Polar, or police thriller, and the comic film. Films studied in detail include *Diva*, *Subway*, *Coup de foudre*, *Vivement dimanche!*, *La Vie est un long fleuve tranquille*, and *Tenue de soirée*, while the volume covers actors from Gérard Depardieu, Daniel Auteuil, and Yves Montand to Isabelle Adjani, Isabelle Huppert, and Emmanuelle Béart.



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