



# The Return of the Epic Film: Genre, Aesthetics and History in the 21st Century

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What does the new epic film now look like? How is it classified? Why has it returned?

The success of *Gladiator* re-launched a genre which had lain dormant for 35 years. *The Return of the Epic Film* is one of the first books to examine this return as a coherent body of films. Studying a range of films from *Gladiator* to *Clash of the Titans*, the various essays question how we define these new epics, their aesthetics, their relationship to history, and who decides which films should be in the canon. Over the course of 11 essays by key figures in the field, the book examines in what ways, why, and how the epic film has returned to our cinemas.

By embracing a range of approaches which take into account the production process, and by questioning the canon of films conventionally accepted as epics, this book will inspire Film Studies students and scholars to rethink the epic film.

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