

Brown, Christopher / Hirsch, Pam (eds)

The Cinema of the Swimming Pool

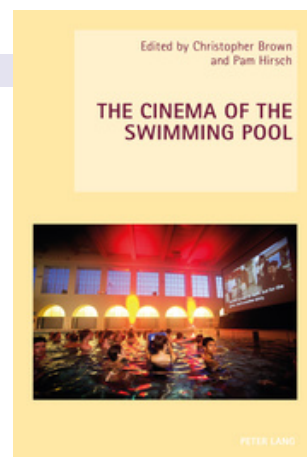
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Book synopsis

The swimming pool frequently appears in film not merely as a setting but as a dynamic site where social, political, cultural and aesthetic forces converge. What is it about this space that has so fascinated filmmakers and what kinds of cinematic investigations does it encourage? This collection features essays by an eclectic, international range of film researchers. Amongst the works analysed are classics such as *The Cameraman* (1928), *The Philadelphia Story* (1940) and *La Piscine* (1969); cult hits such as *The Swimmer* (1968) and *Deep End* (1970); and more recent representations of the pool in *Water Lilies* (2007), *Sea Point Days* (2009) and *Ausente* (2011). The pool is considered as a realm where artifice meets nature, where public meets private, where sexualities morph and blend; and as a space that reconfigures the relationship between architecture and narrative, in which themes of pollution, spectacle and reflexivity find unique expression. Approaching the swimming pool from a wide range of methodological perspectives, the essays in this collection stake a claim for the enduring significance of this exciting cinematic space.

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About the author(s)/editor(s)

Christopher Brown is Lecturer in Filmmaking at the University of Greenwich, where he teaches film and screenwriting. His articles have appeared in publications including *Film Criticism* and the *Quarterly Review of Film & Video*, and he has won several awards as a screenwriter. Pam Hirsch is Lecturer in English Literature and Film History and Theory at the University of Cambridge. She is the convenor of the undergraduate course Film, Culture and Identity and teaches on the MPhil in Screen Media and Cultures. Her most recent articles have appeared in publications including *Feminist Media Studies* and the *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*.

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