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Humanities \ Performing Arts \ Film

Millennial masculinity: men in contemporary American cinema, ed. by Timothy Shary.

Wayne State, 2013. 367p bibl filmography index afp; ISBN 9780814334355 pbk, \$29.95; ISBN 9780814338445 e-book, contact publisher for price. Reviewed in 2013sep CHOICE.

A successful film anthology hinges upon three characteristics: strong editing, a sharp focus, and articles that substantially contribute to the field. One of the strongest volumes on contemporary cinematic masculinity in years, this anthology compiled by Shary (Clark Univ.) has all three qualities. The collection includes articles on familiar and popular films (*Brokeback Mountain*, *Fight Club*), but also unexpected subjects such as Philip Seymour Hoffman, Adam Sandler, and neo-retro heist films. There is not a trivial article in the book. Particularly provocative selections include David Greven's fascinating "American Psycho Family Values," in which he demonstrates how Travis Bickles (of *Taxi Driver*) differs from contemporary psychotic characters because Bickles contests dominant cultural values while such current characters often uphold them. Donna Peberdy's work on performance, sexuality, and Harvey Milk examines the relationship between performer and performance. Building upon the work of Richard Dyer, Peberdy addresses some crucial and fascinating questions regarding cinematic authenticity and sexual orientation. Helpful supplemental materials include a list of US films since 1990 that address masculinity, and an exhaustive bibliography. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above. -- G. R. Butters Jr., *Aurora University*

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