The Cinema of Basil Dearden and Michael Relph

Alan Burton and Tim O'Sullivan

December 2009
Hb  978 0 7486 3289 3   £55.00
256pp  234 x 156 mm
41 b&w illustrations

An introduction to one of the most significant filmmaking teams in postwar British cinema

Description

Basil Dearden and Michael Relph came together at the famous Ealing Studios in the wartime period and became the most prolific production team at the studio. This book offers a full assessment and evaluation of the cinema of this important partnership and considers their contribution to wartime cinema at Ealing. Later, Dearden and Relph branched out into independent production.

This study takes a fresh look at their cycle of controversial social problem films, and looks at their later period of filmmaking for the international market in the 1960s. Attention is also given to the significant place of comedy in their cinema and Michael Relph's considerable achievements as an art director. Films discussed include The Captive Heart (1946), The Blue Lamp (1950) and Pool of London (1951), Sapphire (1959) and Victim (1961).

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements
Foreword: James Dearden
Foreword: Simon Relph
Biographical Notes: Basil Dearden
Biographical Notes: Michael Relph
Introduction: 'Two on a Tandem'? Dearden and Relph: Authorship and British Cinema
1: Apprenticeship and Beyond: Comedy Traditions and Film Design
2: The Formative Period: The War years and the Ethos of Ealing
3: Dramas of Masculine Adjustment I: Tragic Melodramas
4: Dramas of Masculine Adjustment II: Men in Action
5: Dramas of Social Adjustment
6: Ethical Dilemmas
7: The International Years
Appendix: 'Inside Ealing': Michael Relph
Filmography
Bibliography

The Authors

Alan Burton is Associate Research Fellow in British Film and TV at De Montfort University, Leicester.
Tim O’Sullivan is Head of the Department of Media, Film & Journalism in the Faculty of Humanities at De Montfort University, Leicester.

Readership

Advanced undergraduates, postgraduates and researchers of British cinema, history, politics and sociology.