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# The New American Crime Film

By Matthew Sorrento



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The most pervasive genre in contemporary cinema, the American crime film has recently enjoyed a new surge of popularity and proliferation. Though these innovative films now tackle topical issues, they continue to reference the classic narratives and archetypes established in the great crime pictures of past decades. The titles explored in this critical survey span many themes that have fused with other genres to create fascinating filmic hybrids. Focusing on character and plot construction, the author highlights the gangster and film noir traditions that still run strongly through recent American cinema.

Among the many filmmakers analyzed within these pages are David Lynch, Gus Van Sant, David Mamet, Werner Herzog, Sam Raimi, David Cronenberg and the Coen Brothers. Stuart Gordon, director of the cult classic *Re-Animator*, provides the lively and incisive foreword.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"With his sharp analysis of some of the most important recent American films, Matthew Sorrento not only forges a new canon but also anchors it in the rich tradition of the gangsters who shot their way through the noir of the 1930s, 40s and 50s, the New Hollywood of the 70s and the neo-noir of the 80s."--*David Hudson, MUBI.com*

### **About the Author**

Matthew Sorrento teaches film at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey. He is the film editor for *Identity Theory* and contributing editor for *Film Threat*, and regularly contributes to *Film International* and other publications.

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