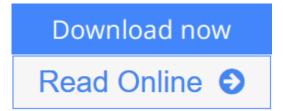


## What If I Had Been the Hero?: Investigating Women's Cinema

By Sue Thornham



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Sue Thornham's study explores issues in feminist filmmaking through an examination of a wide range of films by women filmmakers, ranging from the avant-garde to mainstream Hollywood, and from the 1970s to the present day, discussing directors including Sally Potter, Jane Campion, Julie Dash, Patricia Rozema and Lynne Ramsay.



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#### **Editorial Review**

From the Back Cover

What happens when women tell their own stories in film? In *What If I Had Been the Hero?*, Sue Thornham addresses this question through an exploration of a wide range of films, from experimental feminist film to mainstream Hollywood, and from the 1970s to the present day, by film-makers including Sally Potter, Jane Campion, Deepa Mehta, Patricia Rozema and Lynne Ramsay. Her discussion takes in films from India and Argentina as well as Europe, Canada, Australia and the US.

Not content to take the 'post feminist' makeover film or the figure of the 'action chick' as evidence of women's increased power and status, Sue Thornham raises key issues about women as authors, subjects and heroes of their narratives. She argues that simple reversals of gendered positions of hero/heroine, active/passive, and subject/object are not enough.

Drawing on a wide range of feminist theoretical sources, *What If I Had Been the Hero?* makes an important intervention into contemporary debates, situating film-making within a rich history of female creativity, and insisting on the continuing importance of feminist theory.

#### About the Author

SUE THORNHAM is Professor of Media and Film and Head of School at the University of Sussex, UK. She is the author of *Passionate Detachments: An Introduction to Feminist Film Theory* (1996), *Feminist Theory and Cultural Studies* (2001) and *Women, Feminism and Media* (2007); the co-author, with Tony Purvis, of *Television Drama: Theories and Identities* (2005); the editor of *Feminist Film Theory: A Reader* (1999), and the co-editor, with Caroline Bassett and Paul Marris, of *Media Studies: A Reader* (3rd edition 2009).

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