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Atomic Bomb Cinema: The Apocalyptic Imagination on Film

Jerome F. Shapiro

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Unfathomably merciless and powerful, the atomic bomb has left its indelible mark on film. In *Atomic Bomb Cinema,* Jerome F. Shapiro unearths the unspoken legacy of the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima and its complex aftermath in American and Japanese cinema.

According to Shapiro, a "Bomb film" is never simply an exercise in ideology or paranoia. He examines hundreds of films like *Godzilla, Dr. Strangelove,* and *The Terminator* as a body of work held together by ancient narrative and symbolic traditions that extol survival under devastating conditions. Drawing extensively on both English-language and Japanese-language sources, Shapiro argues that such films not only grapple with our nuclear anxieties, but also offer signs of hope that humanity is capable of repairing a damaged and divided world.

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