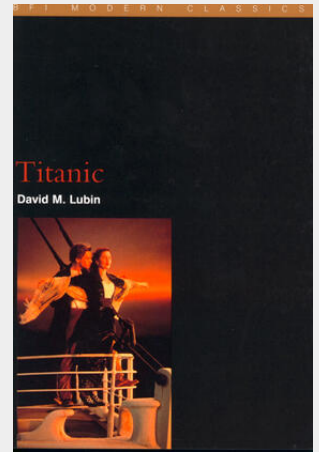


Lubin

Titanic

This text looks at "Titanic", the first film to earn over a billion dollars at the global box-office. This epic film reimagines one of the defining events of the 20th century through the lens of American romanticism.

Titanic (James Cameron, 1997) is the first film to have earned over a billion dollars at the global box office. Unsurprisingly, it's a film that had critics howling their derision and patronizing its huge (and varied) audience. Profoundly dependent on computer-generated special effects and comic-book characterization, "Titanic" was viewed by intellectuals as disposable kitsch fit only for obsessive teenage girls. David M. Lubin argues that this view is both patronizing and an inaccurate description of the film's appeal to its huge (and varied) audience. He argues that "Titanic" provides its audiences with a way to think about relevant modern issues of culture and class. While not by any means an intellectual film (and far less an intellectual's film), "Titanic" nevertheless prompts viewers to pose to themselves questions about society's divide between rich and poor, the nature of love, the meaning of sacrifice, and modernity's faith in, even obsession with, technological prowess and mastery over nature.



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