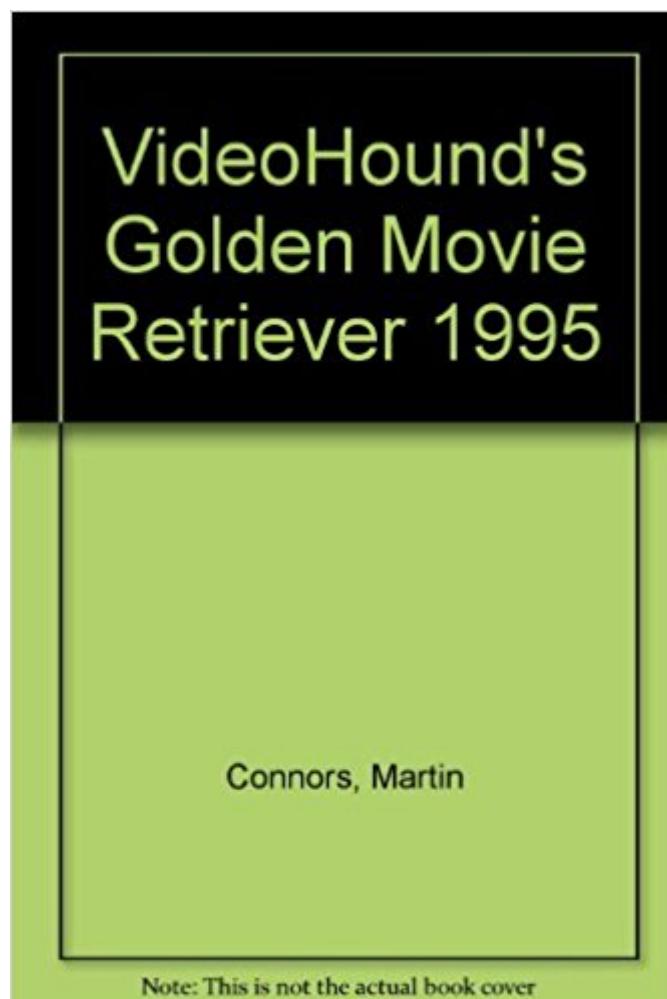


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# Videohound's Golden Movie Retriever/1995



## **Synopsis**

Containing the most extensive listing of movies available on video more than 23,000 in all and a multitude of cross-referencing within its 10 primary indexes, each new edition includes 1,000 new movies, expanded indexing, a fresh new introduction and more of the beloved categories --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As short a time ago as 1994, Leonard Maltin's movie guide could boast of "more than 19,000 entries, with 300 new titles!" But with 500-plus movies jostling into theaters every year, the pocket-size, curl-up-with-it film guide has become a relic. Nowadays, film books are faintly scholarly word-hoards with three OED-style columns, a trade-size format, and a heft that calls for your sitting pants. Videohound's 1,700-page edition sasses the new millennium ("Covering 1,000 years of Movie Making Magic!" the cover says), but its girth heralds the day when all such guides will be swallowed up by some vast digital database. Until then, there's this bright book, with its uncalculated number (a hasty guess would be 26,000) of reviews of movies on video, Laserdisc, DVD, and TV, and its massive cross-listings by star, director, writer, and cinematographer (cinematographer!). Retailing itself as an irreverent tour for movie lovers, the book has surprising range, with an equal appetite for difficult, small, and foreign films and Hollywood fare. Some inconsistencies? Yep, and that's what makes guides like this fun. Kurosawa's Seven Samurai is

hailed as a "masterpiece" and rewarded an admiring four bones (out of four), while the superbly Heideggerian *Wings of Desire*, also a "masterpiece," is equivocated to three and a half. The woof-worthy *The Wedding Singer* gets the same two and a half bones that they give Wes Anderson's estimably giggly debut, *Bottle Rocket*. Terry Zwigoff's lovely *Crumb* is M.I.A., and there's a tendency to eschew analysis for plot summary, but *Videohound* has encyclopedic breadth and does the undeclared job it sets out to accomplish: entertain, inform, and give readers a giant list of movies to watch next year. --Lyall Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you're going to purchase one video guide for your home or library, this is it. Reviewing 24,000 films, *GMR 2000* is certainly one of the largest and definitely the most irreverent of the paperback guides published annually (e.g., Leonard Maltin's *Movie & Video Guide*). The concise but pithy reviews are arranged alphabetically, with each entry noting format availability (tape, DVD), principal cast and crew, MPAA rating, awards, and alternate titles. But it is the inclusion of ten separate indexes, including casts, crews, web sites, and the hysterical "Category Index," that push this work to Number One. For lengthier but fewer reviews, one should turn to Roger Ebert's *Movie Yearbook 2000* (Andrews McMeel, 1999) or *Video Companion 1998* (Andrews McMeel, 1997). Highly recommended for all academic and public libraries.-Anthony J. Adam, Prairie View A&M Univ. Lib., TX Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the fourth or fifth *VideoHound's Golden Movie Retriever* I have purchased. I buy a new one about every 5-7 years. It has information in it that I didn't even know I wanted to know until I read it. I find it easy to use; being able to look up by Movie Title, Director, Actors...and more. I really enjoy movies and this helps the enjoyment, like finding out that I saw an early Steven Spielberg directorial effort on TV before I saw any of his movies. When I "discover" an actor I enjoy watching, I can check the Movie Retriever and discover that there were earlier movies the actor had done and now that I know about them, I can find the DVD and watch them. It's like finding buried treasure.

The *Videohound's* guides are the most comprehensive and user-friendly collections of movie reviews around. Films are sorted by title, genre, cast, director, writer and even composer and cinematographer, so if you can remember anything at all about a movie, you can look it up. Reviews are concise and often amusing, with ratings from Woof! to \*\*\*\*. Many of the Woofs! are low-budget

horror films that fall into the "so bad it's good" category. Flaws? In my opinion, some of the reviewers (I assume they weren't all written by one person!) don't appreciate many low-key, offbeat independent films. Some of my favorite movies only get one or two stars. But no gigantic collection of reviews can expect to please everyone, and the primary value of Videohound's is that it's a superb reference tool. Whether you agree with the reviews is secondary.

As far as this is my seventh yearly Moview Review book I've purchased I feel that the reviews for each movie give me and other friends an idea of whether we'll like the movie (if we buy it) also has a pretty good listing of most stars if I am looking for a movie, but don't remember the title. I also like that this book lists independents as well as the million dollar movie studios. I sometimes discount the bones as that's the opinion of the reviewer who may not think like me or may be looking for perfection whereas I'm looking to be entertained as well as gain some knowledge because I feel that many movies mirror current events (not just documentaries).

My wife and I have been buying this book annually since the early/mid 90's. It's been a rare moment that it has disappointed, and believe it or not, the reviews are intelligently written and, in this movie nut's opinion much more fair and helpful to the would-be viewer than many of the top US newspaper's and web site's highly paid guns-for-hire. I don't want to put across the impression that all "big-time" critics aren't really that great, but more and more often these folks seem to think they're in a competition with their counterparts to see who can find and use the most obscure phraseology and biting criticism that it's like trying to follow a Dennis Miller routine if you haven't read every major newspaper in the country that day! These folks seem to understand the critics job in more of an everyman way, sure they're witty, and they can bite with the biggest dogs out there, but we find that the reviews are very often right on the money. It rates on a system of dog bones, 1 bone (actually they have a no-bone rating, simply stated as "woof") through 4 bones, and when they give a movie 4 bones, I think you would really have to try very hard to find that particular movie unlikable. We have rented or purchased a "4-boner" on those criteria alone. Just my opinion, but they just seem to tell it like it is, but still have a little fun with it. After all, it is a MOVIE, right? You laugh, you cry, yada, yada. Of course, it has to get bigger every year, (2008's has 1800+ pages, but it's also a blast just to scan thru...because as well as reviewing almost every movie made, the reviews give exhaustively complete credits, i.e., cinematography, music score, screenplay, based on a book by \_\_\_, etc., etc., you also get, after the movie section, a cross-referencing group of sections that defies you to try and play "stump the Hound". If you cannot find out information on,

say, Bud Cort's first film appearance, (M.A.S.H.) or maybe a disturbing filmography of David Lynch, this is where you look. I would say it could satisfy (at least to a certain extent!), the very freakishly obsessed with movies and movie-making trivia. Just stroll through the section on actors, and you'll soon learn that many of your favorite star's went through a relatively inauspicious beginning, and that's just one of the many categories that are almost voyeuristic in their "completeness"...directors, with their bodies of work just lying there chronologically for you to pick at, lol, the category list, which contains genre, sub-genre, thematic, even significant scene selections, and a "kibbles and series" list, actually a bunch of off the wall indexes rolled into one index...you would look here to find out what your favorite movie's genesis really was...literary, theatrical, cartoon, television adaptations, plus there's a quality check with categories like "woofs", "4 bones" top grossing, jeez, I'm getting carpal tunnel while trying (woefully unsuccessfully) to keep this somewhat short. If you like movies check it out, if you love them, just buy it. My wife and I started calling it the "boner book" from the second week we found our first one. BTW...you can pre-order the '09 edition right now, you sicko!

This book is as large as a telephone directory. It has loads of information, so much in fact that my husband is driving me crazy. Every movie we want to tape/purchase/rent gets a full "review" including all actors, directors, which movies they've been in before etc. etc. etc. Actually really interesting and well worth the money.

All of the above met my needs and I am very happy with all.

After seeing this book at a local Borders I put it on my Christmas list. Incredibly, this is the size of a New York phone book. The book has all that you need to make accurate decisions to fill your Netflix or Blockbuster list. I like the extensive list of cross references such as actors in every film they appeared in, directors films, etc. The reviews are quite accurate and fairly judged. If you have the room in your home library for a 'phone book', go out and purchase this movie review guide.

I have been buying the Video Hound Golden Movie Retriever books for years and years for my Mom, who uses it all the time with her crossword puzzles. Her last copy was in three pieces/sections from overuse and she asked Santa for a new one this year. She has used other movie books, but hands down prefers the Video Hound. LOVE IT!

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