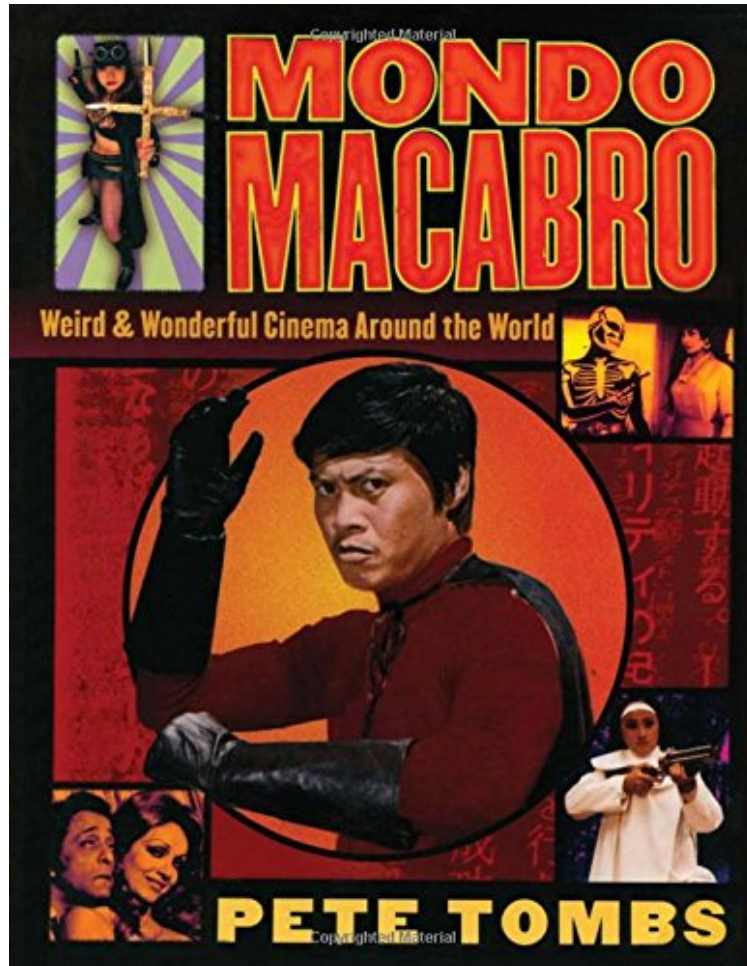


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## Mondo Macabro : Weird Wonderful Cinema Around the World

*Peter Tombs*

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**Peter Tombs : Mondo Macabro : Weird Wonderful Cinema Around the World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mondo Macabro : Weird Wonderful Cinema Around the World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Loretta Macpherson Everything was wonderful 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Low Budget Movie Bible - International Edition By Mike K If you can't remember last year's Oscar Winners, but know what a Flying Guillotine is, this is the book for you. It's both funny and informative, and the impact of local cultures on their cinema is pretty fascinating. Some of the movie descriptions are so absurd and off the wall I was laughing until my stomach hurt. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Mondo Macabro go go! By Tosh Berman/TamTam Books If I had the money, I would travel to Asia, South America, and Eastern Europe to learn about each region's culture. I wouldn't go to museums, but rather to the movies, especially the exploitative, sexual, and violent ones. Since I'm short on funds, I decided to read Pete Tomb's Mondo Macabro:

Weird Wonderful Cinema Around the World instead. For \$18.95, I developed my own case of culture shock by reading about the B movies of Japan, Turkey, the Philippines, China, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, India, and Indonesia. What we have here is an attention-grabbing introduction to an entire world of films that are full of bizarre sexuality, brutality, and horror. Tombs focuses on how these films react to, and contribute to, their particular culture's makeup and character. The film business in Istanbul, Turkey, for example, didn't get going until the '50s, when they made *Dracula Istanbul'da* (Dracula in Istanbul). To say the special effects were low-tech would be putting it mildly; to show fog in a graveyard, the crew lay on the ground and puffed on lots of cigarettes. After that success, there were films such as *Tarzan in Istanbul* and *The Invisible Man in Istanbul* -- there's nothing like national pride. *Mondo Macabro* concentrates not only on film lore but also on the literature and legends of these nations. It is rare to get a book on this subject that is so well written and informative for even the amateur film fanatic. Sadly, due to distribution and business practices, most people won't be able to see films such as India's *Kali*, *The Bloodthirsty Bride of Shiva*, Japan's *Rapeman*, or the Turkish version of *Star Wars*. So our alternative is this wonderful, well-researched book featuring stills from enchanting films I have never seen and, most likely, never will.

The author of "Immoral Tales" now brings readers into the exotic, erotic, and eccentric international film scene. Fully illustrated, this book includes an Indian song-and-dance version of "Dracula"; Turkish version of "Star Trek" and "Superman"; China's "hopping vampire" films, and much more. 332 illustrations. of color photos.

.com "Sometimes it feels like there's nothing left to discover. Bookshelves bend under the weight of tomes devoted to all things 'cult,' 'B,' or obscure. Films you might once have crossed town to see now turn up on new video labels every week. [But] for those who still value the shock of the new, the special kind of thrill that comes from confronting previously unsung greatness, ... there are plenty of strange new worlds left to explore.... *Mondo Macabro* is a peek into the treasure trove of fifty years of film from around the world. We've sifted through the dross and picked out the dusty jewels." Those who enjoy horror movies, and bizarre movies of all types, will find Peter Tombs's *Mondo Macabro: Weird and Wonderful Cinema Around the World* a welcome companion on the shelf next to their (and Cathal Tohill's) *Immoral Tales: European Sex Horror Movies 1956-1984*. With the help of three other writers (Giovanni Scognamiglio, Diego Curubeto, and David Wilt), Tombs gives us an overflowing cornucopia of well-written descriptions of movies made in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Turkey, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and Japan. Each section provides film-historical background on the individual countries and studios, a handy folklore primer on the indigenous monsters and myths that appear in the films, plenty of movie stills and poster art, and portraits of important personalities such as Brazil's Jos Mojica Marins (creator of the infamous evil persona Z do Caixo, a.k.a. Coffin Joe). As horror-fantasy writer Ian McDowell writes, "The sheer range of bizarre cinema that Tombs covers is amazing. My only serious cavil involves his first chapter, one of three on Hong Kong cinema. I know that he leaves the mainstream fare to others, but he still makes some odd statements about the timing of the golden age of Chinese martial arts films." Best of all, Tombs prizes the pungent, if sometimes raw, flavors of individual creativity and local traditions, so his book is especially helpful for distinguishing between horror films that are unique to a country or region, those that are hybrids of Western models and local themes, and those that are mere copies of Western films. *Mondo Macabro* also includes top 10 lists from five world cinema experts, tips on where to find the videos, and an index of film titles. -- Fiona Webster