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Japanese Horror Films and their American Remakes

Valerie Wee

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The Ring (2002)?Hollywood's remake of the Japanese cult success *Ringu* (1998)?marked the beginning of a significant trend in the late 1990s and early 2000s of American adaptations of Asian horror films. This book explores this complex process of adaptation, paying particular attention to the various transformations that occur when texts cross cultural boundaries. Through close readings of a range of Japanese horror films and their Hollywood remakes, this study addresses the social, cultural, aesthetic and generic features of each national cinema's approach to and representation of horror, within the subgenre of the ghost story, tracing convergences and divergences in the films' narrative trajectories, aesthetic style, thematic focus and ideological content. In comparing contemporary Japanese horror films with their American adaptations, this book advances existing studies of both the Japanese and American cinematic traditions, by:

- illustrating the ways in which each tradition responds to developments in its social, cultural and ideological milieu; and,
- examining Japanese horror films and their American remakes through a lens that highlights cross-cultural exchange and bilateral influence.

The book will be of interest to scholars of film, media, and cultural studies.

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