New Korean Cinema: Breaking The Waves (Short Cuts (Wallflower))
New Korean Cinema charts the dramatic transformation of South Korea's film industry from the democratization movement of the late 1980s to the 2000s new generation of directors. The author considers such issues as government censorship, the market's embrace of Hollywood films, and the social changes which led to the diversification and surprising commercial strength of contemporary Korean films. Directors such as Hong Sang-soo, Kim Ki-duk, Park Chan-wook, and Bong Joon-ho are studied within their historical context together with a range of films including Sopyonje (1993), Peppermint Candy (1999), Oldboy (2003), and The Host (2006).

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Darcy Paquet is the founder of Koreanfilm.org and visiting professor in the Department of Film and Theatre at Kyunghee University. A former reporter for Screen International and Variety, he has lived in Seoul since 1997.

Best book I've encountered on the topic. It is concise yet includes a very detailed history and some analysis. Very recent publication so still up to date.

This is a well-written, intelligent survey of the most crucial years in the development of recent Korean cinema. Paquet obviously knows his stuff and seems to have lived through some of it (he lives in Korea). What's most useful is the historical and social perspective and context in which
Paquet frames his account. For those of us who don't know much about Korea, it helps deepen our understanding of the films themselves and the environment in which Korean cinema took hold of the world’s imagination at the end of the 20th century. It’s a necessary corrective to all that misinformation you find from fanboys, opportunistic blogs, and amateurs who don’t know their Park Chan-wook from Don Siegel. An absolute necessity for anyone’s collection - even if you only have a passing interest in cinema, this book will tell you a lot about Korea itself. Now if only Paquet would turn his attention to the deeper riches of Korean cinema of the 1950s and 1960s!

Disappointed me. Sort of a survey of the K- film INDUSTRY, rather than an investigation of the cultural roots, thinking and experiences of film makers which have created (my opinion) the most vivid, vibrant and emotionally intense films made in the past two decades. Speaking of the industry, the author missed the impact of the Region DVD codes which prevent foreign access to all Korean DVD’s that don’t have a US distributor. To this day I think DVD codes were managed by Hollywood not to prevent piracy, but to block importation of foreign DVD’s. Good resource though for anyone who likes Korean cinema and wants to learn a bit more about it. Handy reference for names and titles..

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