



MOVIES OF THE '30s

By Jürgen Müller, Taschen, £19.99 ★★★★★



Same as the last one: still great. Taschen's latest – the seventh, we're counting – in their glorious rewind through a century of films hits the '30s, beginning with the stock-market crash and ending with the rumbling of World War Two. Charting the decade when silent cinema died (*Nosferatu* replaced by Tod Browning's *Dracula*) and Technicolor was born (*Gone With The Wind* announcing the dawn of the Selznick mega-epic), the book's splashes of beautiful, smoky monochrome photography glow with cine-love, while the essays remain rewarding. As America entered the Great Depression, we watch Hollywood uncork the escapism of Capra's *Mr Deeds Goes To Town*, the mania of the Marx brothers' *Duck Soup* and the moral retribution of Howard Hawks' *Scarface*. Europe, meanwhile, pushes the boundaries of Expressionism (Fritz Lang's *M*), humanism (Jean Renoir's *La Grande Illusion*) and art (Leni Riefenstahl's *Olympia*). Your coffee table needs it.

QUOTE "It's clear that while the '30s was a time of poverty and struggle for many people, the world of cinema was much enriched."

Jonathan Crocker