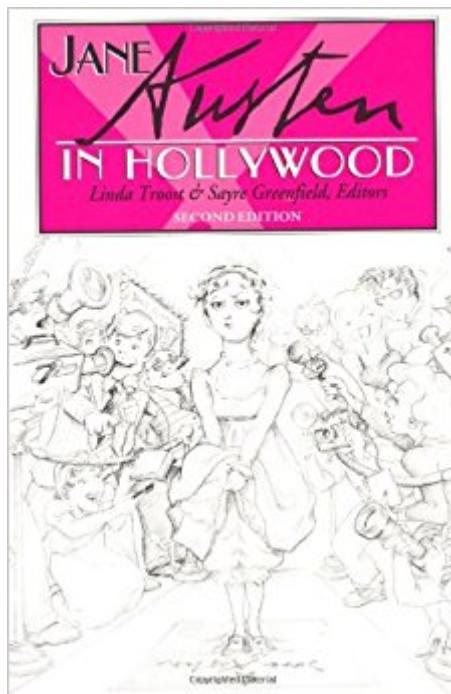


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# Jane Austen In Hollywood



## **Synopsis**

In 1995 and 1996 six film or television adaptations of Jane Austen's novels were produced— an unprecedented number. More amazing, all were critical and/or box office successes. What accounts for this explosion of interest? Much of the appeal of these films lies in our nostalgic desire at the end of the millennium for an age of greater politeness and sexual reticence. Austen's ridicule of deceit and pretentiousness also appeals to our fin de siècle sensibilities. The novels were changed, however, to enhance their appeal to a wide popular audience, and the revisions reveal much about our own culture and its values. These recent productions espouse explicitly twentieth-century feminist notions and reshape the Austenian hero to make him conform to modern expectations. Linda Troost and Sayre Greenfield present fourteen essays examining the phenomenon of Jane Austen as cultural icon, providing thoughtful and sympathetic insights on the films through a variety of critical approaches. The contributors debate whether these productions enhance or undercut the subtle feminism that Austen promoted in her novels. From *Persuasion* to *Pride and Prejudice*, from the three *Emmas* (including *Clueless*) to *Sense and Sensibility*, these films succeed because they flatter our intelligence and education. And they have as much to tell us about ourselves as they do about the world of Jane Austen. This second edition includes a new chapter on the recent film version of *Mansfield Park*.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Mediating between the Austen novels and the films, the essays in this collection are most

illuminatory of the differences between the two historical periods. Is it a surprise that Austen's heroes, rather than her heroines, have had to be revised?"*Betty Rizzo*"This book has something for both the Austen scholar and the Austen enthusiast."*Booklist*"Few scholarly works excite sufficient demand to require a second edition within three years of the first publication, but this collection of essays on Austen and Hollywood has attracted an audience far beyond academe."*Eighteenth Century Current Bibliography*"An excellent example of literary criticism, as each of the fourteen essays is well-researched and scholarly but with a touch of humor."*Film & History*"[These articles] are engaging and sure to spark discussion"*Library Journal*"Such a book was sure to follow the Austen explosion and we welcome it."*Literature/Film Quarterly*

Though I like the idea of this book I sadly felt I could not agree with several of the opinions stated. I feel that *Sense and Sensibility*(1995) as well as *Persuasion*(1995) are accurate representations of the novels and are true gifts to the world.:)

Easy and accessible reading on a great writer. One of the best things about this book is the lack of critical consensus on so many important Austen issues (especially concerning her ostensible feminism and her indisputable irony)--it's always amusing (and enlightening) to listen in on a civilised, academic brawl! Do make sure to get the 2nd edition with 14 essays including the new one, "The Mouse that Roared."

The second edition (available only in paperback) contains a new essay, "The Mouse that Roared," about Patricia Rozema's film of *Mansfield Park*.

This book really helped me explain Jane Austen to my husband. Now he watches the movies with me quite contentedly.

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