

Two Wheels on Two Reels

A HISTORY OF BIKER MOVIES

by Mike Seate

This is the first book ever to explore biker movies and to describe how these films formed our first impressions of bikers, influenced our culture, and brought big-screen entertainment to a new level. Whether serious, funny, shocking, historical or just plain weird, the biker movies created a permanent place in our modern culture and our lives, shaping, reflecting, and sometimes spoofing the biker lifestyles.

Like many people, author Mike Seate, motorcyclist, columnist, film and art critic, and regular contributor to motorcycle magazines, was influenced by big screen representations of bikers. He explains why the public—or “straights,” to borrow biker movie lingo—was and still is fascinated by the outlaw biker. The movies provided many people with their only glimpse of the biker’s world. To view a motorcyclist’s “mysterious” and “dangerous” lifestyle, options were limited to either taking a movie director’s word for it, or visiting the local biker bar. Most people chose the former.

Seate also discusses how Hollywood’s exploitation of the motorcycle outlaw proved to be a sword that cut both ways: the films raised awareness of motorcycles, but did so at a price. Most motorcyclists felt the popular image of drugged-out chopper riders had little to do with their riding experiences, but the public began seeing everyone on two wheels as outlaws.

From *The Wild One* to the biker-hero sagas of films like *Mask*, this book provides a fascinating view of how biker movies became so popular and influential to bikers and non-bikers alike.

Contents

- Origins of The Wild Ones
- Hide Your Daughters! The Psychedelic Sixties and Seventies
- The British Invasion: Mods, Rockers, and Gentleman Marauders
- Full Throttle: Off to the Races
- Misfits, Miscasts, and Lone Wolves
- The Anti-Hero Becomes a Hero
- Resource Guide

The Author

Mike Seate, his wife Kim, and their two cats live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where his columns on city life and pop culture can be found in *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. Mike has written film and arts reviews for *In Pittsburgh Newsweekly* and has contributed hundreds of motorcycle lifestyle features to numerous magazines including *IronWorks*, *LongRiders* and *Iron Horse*, as well as England’s *Classic Bike* and *Motor Cycle News*.

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A history of biker movies

MIKE SEATE

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Key Selling Points

- A complete study the impact of the hugely popular biker movie phenomenon
- Easily adoptable as a text for any film class

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