PREFACE

HOW THE PROGRAM NOTES WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS ANTHOLOGY

For about fifteen years, CinemaTexas Program Notes were written and published to accompany films shown at Jester Auditorium. Probably close to 1,500 sets were produced. Preparing this volume, we faced the monumental task of deciding how to whittle that number down to a workable anthology. Toward that end, we solicited suggestions from former CinemaTexas writers, asking them to choose their favorite sets of Notes. Collins Swords, Asher Ford, and Graham Carter read through dozens and dozens of Notes and chose most of the pieces featured in this book. So many great Note writers over the years authored so many truly terrific Notes, making this work challenging.

The team above, along with Alexa Harrington, also carefully transcribed each entry for this volume verbatim. Initially, we attempted to reconstruct the Notes as they originally appeared on mimeographed pages; however, after much deliberation, we decided to remove the film credits, director filmographies, suggested readings, and copyright sections from each Note in an effort to minimize the page count. We have included an original Note as an appendix for visual reference.

A number of writers are represented by multiple entries, such as Ed Lowry, Nick Barbaro, D. N. Rodowick, Lauren Rabinovitz, Ann Laemmle, Michael Selig, Steve Fore, and Valentin Almendarez. The driving idea behind this anthology is to present some truly outstanding writing by the graduate students who programmed and ran CinemaTexas. Singling out any of these writers does all a disservice, including the many talented writers not represented in this volume. For this reason, we hope this book will be

the first of several volumes. Our concentration has been on providing a wide range of CinemaTexas's best writers, weighing in on films, both classic and far more obscure, as a demonstration of the remarkable value of this archive.

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Many more to come.

LOUIS BLACK

CINEMATEXAS NOTES