

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791402603321
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Titolo	French costume drama of the 1950s [[electronic resource]] : fashioning politics in film / / Susan Hayward
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bristol [U.K.], : Intellect, 2010
ISBN	1-282-89606-7 9786612896064 1-84150-434-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (482 p.)
Disciplina	791.430944
Soggetti	Performing arts - France Motion pictures, French
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [453]-457) and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Contexts -- pt. 2. Fairytales, foxy women and swashbuckling heroes -- pt. 3. Representing history : epics, courtesans and master narratives 1796-1888 -- pt. 4. Belle epoque mania : Paris, the provinces and biopics.
Sommario/riassunto	When political and civil unrest threatened France's social order in the 1950's, French cinema provided audiences a seemingly unique form of escapism from such troubled times: a nostalgic look back to the France of the nineteenth and earlier centuries, with costume dramas set in the age of Napoleon, the Belle Epoque, the Revolution and further back still to seventeenth-century swashbuckler adventures and tales of mystery and revenge. Film critics, have routinely dismissed this period and this genre of French cinema, overlooking its importance in terms of political cultural history. French Cost