

## CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction: Cultural Phenomenon or  
Cultural Catastrophe? 1

**1 The Codes and Conventions of the  
Contemporary Superhero Film 17**

Case Study: Spider-Man 29

Case Study: Deadpool 33

**2 The Mythologies of the Contemporary  
Superhero Film 38**

Case Study: Superman 45

Case Study: Batman 49

**3 Gender and Sexuality in the Contemporary  
Superhero Film 55**

Case Study: Wonder Woman 65

Case Study: The Incredibles 69

**4 Ethnicity in the Contemporary Superhero Film 75**

Case Study: Hancock 80

Case Study: Black Panther 84

**5 The Global Contemporary Superhero Film 88**

Case Study: SuperBob 99

Case Study: Krrish 103

**Conclusion: "Is it me or is it getting crazier out there?"  
The Future of the Contemporary Superhero Film  
and the Genre's "Impossible Solutions for  
Insoluble Problems" 109**

Filmography 115

Notes 119

Bibliography 139

Index 155