

## 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