



## Deconstructing Disney

By Martin McQuillan, Eleanor Byrne

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**Deconstructing Disney** By Martin McQuillan, Eleanor Byrne

Demonising Disney is nothing new. Disney films have long been synonymous with a certain conservative, patriarchal, heterosexual ideology, occupying a centre-stage position at the heart of the evil empire. Deconstructing Disney takes issue with knee-jerk polarities, overturning classical oppositions and recognising that, just as the Disney 'text' has changed, so too must the terms of critical engagement. This book is a sharply focused deconstruction of the political culture — and the cultural politics — of the Disney canon in the years since the emergence of the so-called New World Order. Eleanor Byrne and Martin McQuillan offer a critical encounter with Disney which alternates between readings of individual texts and wider thematic concerns such as race, gender and sexuality, the broader context of American contemporary culture, and the global ambitions and insularity of the last great superpower. The movies discussed include *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King*, *Pocohontas*, *Snow White*, *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *Dumbo*, *Peter Pan*, *The Jungle Book*, *Hercules* and *Mulan*.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **About the Author**

Eleanor Byrne is a Lecturer in post-Colonial Literature at University College Worcester and writes on aspects of culture and postcoloniality. Martin McQuillan is Pro-Dean of Research in the Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communication at the University of Leeds. He is the author, along with Eleanor Byrne, of *Deconstructing Disney* (Pluto, 1999), *Paul de Man* (2000) and editor of *Deconstruction: A Reader* (2000), *The Narrative Reader* (2000), and *Theorising Muriel Spark: Gender, Race, Deconstruction* (2002) and co-editor of *Post-Theory: New Directions in Criticism* (1999).

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