CONTENTS

List of Illustrations • vi Acknowledgments • ix

Introduction • xiii

PART ONE THE VERNACULAR SCENE

Chapter 1 Vernacular Modernism and Cinematic Embodiment • 1

Chapter 2 Worldly Shanghai, Metropolitan Spectators • 42

Chapter 3 Teahouse, Shadowplay, and Laborer's Love • 89

Chapter 4 Building a Film World: Distraction versus Education • 118

PART TWO COMPETING MODERNS

Chapter 5 Screenwriting, Trick Photography, and Melodramatic Retribution • 151

Chapter 6 The Anarchic Body Language of the Martial Arts
Film • 199

Chapter 7 Fighting over the Modern Girl: Hard and Soft Films • 244

Chapter 8 Song at Midnight: Acoustic Horror and the Grotesque Face of History • 298

Envoi · 345

Abbreviations • 351

Notes • 353

Glossary • 413

Filmography • 423

Bibliography • 439

Index · 465