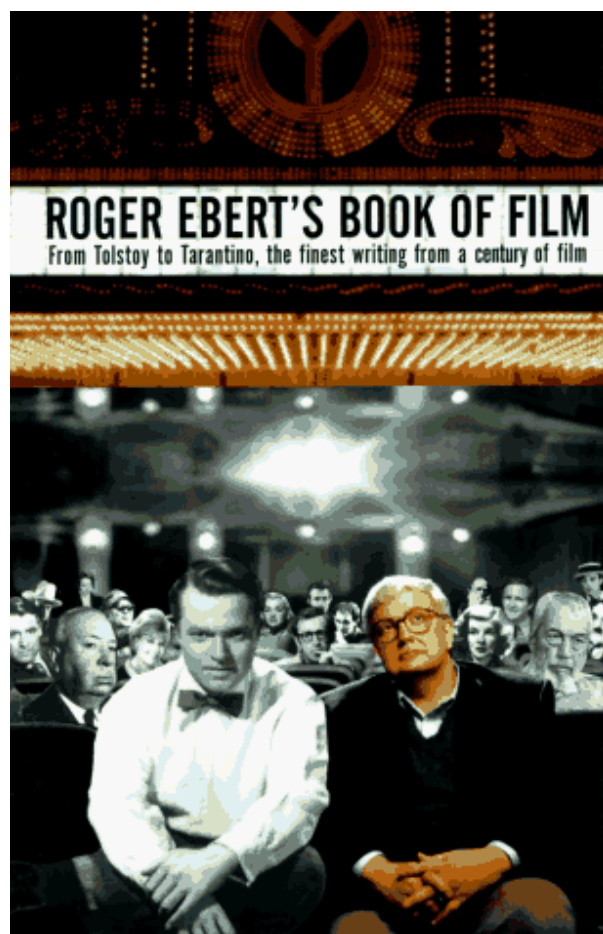
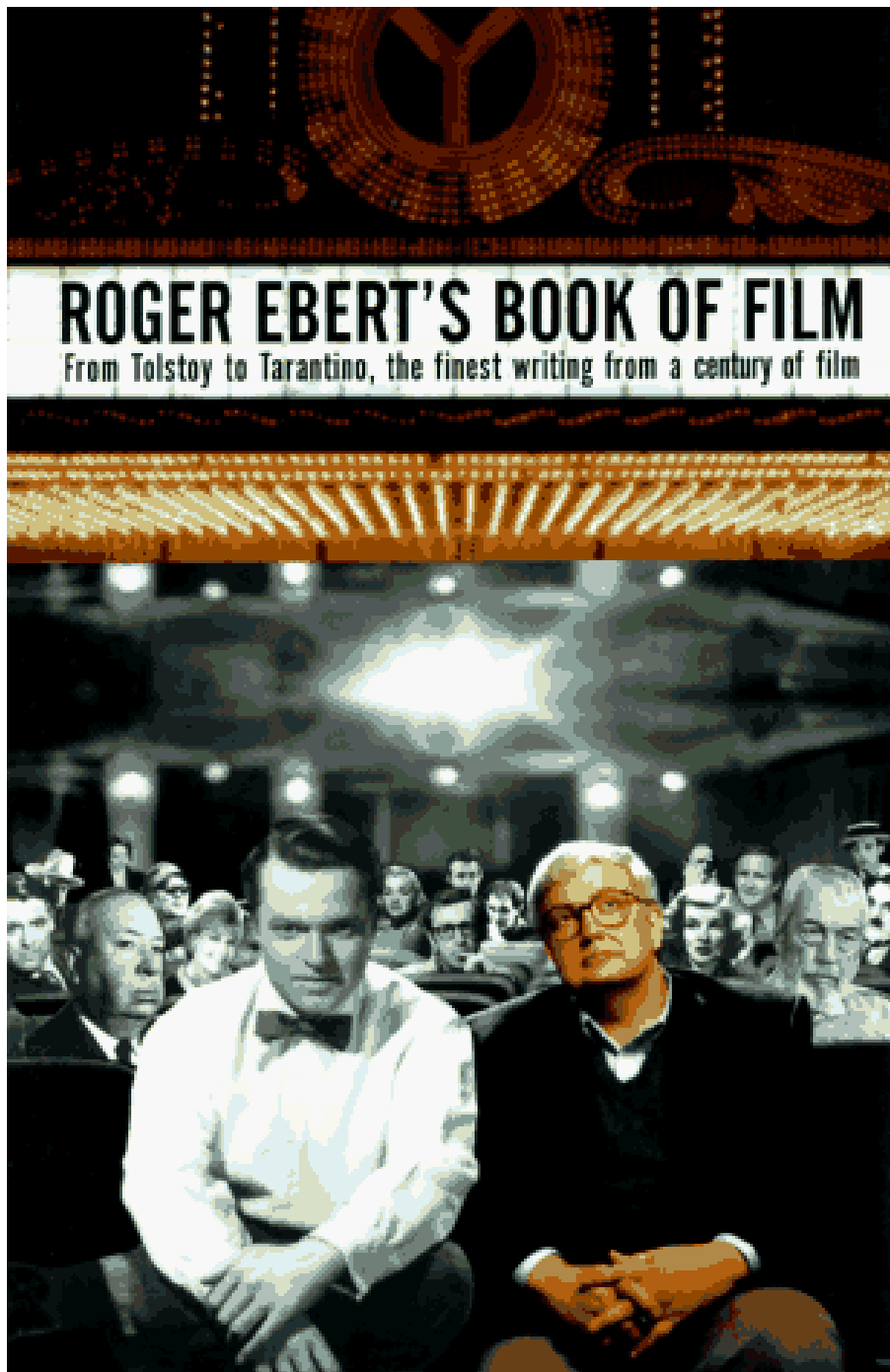


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Amazon.com Review

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From Publishers Weekly

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Thumbs up for the most lavish and entertaining anthology of writing on film ever, assembled by America's best known and most trusted movie critic. If going to the movies has been the twentieth century's most popular source of artistic pleasure, reading about the movies may not be far behind.

For this delicious, instructive, and vastly enjoyable anthology, Roger Ebert has selected and introduced an international treasury of more than 100 selections that touch on every aspect of filmmaking and filmgoing. Here are the stars (Truman Capote on Marilyn Monroe, Joan Didion on John Wayne, Tom Wolfe on Cary Grant, Lauren Bacall on herself), the directors (John Houseman on Orson Welles, Kenneth Tynan on Mel Brooks, John Huston on himself), the makers and shakers (producer Julia Phillips, mogul Darryl F. Zanuck, stuntman Joe Bonomo), and the critics and theorists (Pauline Kael, Graham Greene, Andrew Sarris, Susan Sontag). Here as well are the novelists who have indelibly captured the experience of moviegoing in our lives (Walker Percy, James Agee, Larry McMurtry) and the culture of the movie business (F. Scott Fitzgerald, Budd Schulberg, Nathanael West). Here is a book to get lost in and return to time and time again: once a history, an anatomy, and a loving appreciation of the central art form of our time.

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Most helpful customer reviews

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

Two thumbs up, 'way up...

By yygsgsdrassil

If you love the movies, if you love good reading and if you love the combination of the two like I do, you will *loooooove* this: a collection of notes, essays, interviews and memoirs by the movie makers, critics and reviewers, about the icons, the good, the bad and the dirty of Hollywood and the movies.

There's so much good stuff in this, I don't know where to start to inform you about it. Let me try the bullet approach.

*The important movie critics, of course, are here. Pauline Kael

does a tango with Norman Mailer on the flick "Last Tango in Paris", Sarris and Tynan as well as Editor Ebert are included

here.

*There's a great Truman Capote piece where he and Marilyn Monroe

(in anti-Monroe drag) hang out and dish the dirt. Capote tries to get her to admit that she's seeing writer Arthur Miller.

*Julia Phillips tells of the coked up, spiked up, hyped up days before and after the time she won the Oscar for her producing *The Sting*.

*There's hilarious sections on WC Fields and Baby Leroy (WC spikes Leroy's orange juice bottle with gin-- "the child was more or less restored to consciousness, but in the scene that followed Turog (the director) complained of his lack of animation.") and Groucho Marx' letters to Warners Bros. executives about what "A

Night in Casablanca" entailed. (The executives took umbrage to the use of Casablanca in the title. Groucho, took umbrage to how absurd these guys were so he took the absurdity to another level.)

*There's the Spike Lee "Do the Right Thing" notes which basically outlines the entire film, but are extremely interesting none the less, there's the infamous Gleave and Forest FAQ on Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction".

*John Waters dishes the dirt on the polyester, back door, wrapped in cellophane and tossed in the dumpster LA. Funny stuff

*Janet Leigh on Hitchcock and the infamous shower scene, Hitchcock on Hitchcock's style of directing, Mamet on Mamet's style of directing.

*Peter Bogdanovich does a excellent piece on Humphrey Bogart and the Bogey Mystique. You are gonna luv that one, trust me.

*Terry 'Waiting to Exhale' McMillian tells us what growing up in Michigan and having the "Wizard of Oz" come on television has meant to her and her family.

And I haven't even scratched the surface of the many pleasures of this great undertaking. There's Mae West, there's Doris Day, there's Orson Welles, there's Federico Fellini, there's Cary Grant and there's essays from the great novels Hollywood Babylon, Get Shorty and The Player.

There's hours and hours of reading pleasure in this fantastic book. "For me, no other art form touches me the way movies do", says Ebert. I heartily concur and I appreciate that his love of the movies has inspired him to put together this collection.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

One of the Greatest Books on Film ever put together

By Kiril G. Kundurazieff

In 1996 Ol' Rog published one of the greatest compilations of film related writing ever produced.

It's huge in more than just its page content, and its cover deserves to be made into a wall poster, and framed.

The cover is the inside of a Movie Palace, & the patrons are a select company of worthies one can only dream about having in the room at the same time....

Sitting front & center are Roger, Orson Welles, and looking, with an arched eyebrow, over Orsons' shoulder is Alfred Hitchcock, while over Rogers is John Huston.

In a funny juxtaposition, 3 rows back, but seen between the heads of Orson & Roger is Woody Allen with his finger to his lips. :-)

Spread out around these gents are Cary Grant, John Wayne, Louise Brooks, Akira Kurosawa, Doris day, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Quentin Tarantino, Leo Tolstoy, Katherine hepburn, Francois Truffaut, Buster Keaton, and Charlie Chaplin.

Um, can I get a collective WOW!! from the readership assembled? :-)

After a fine introduction by the author you are invited to dig into 11 sections with articles on a dozens of films, issues, and personalities.

Articles on film going by, among others, James Agee, Walker Percy.

H. L. Mencken on Rudy Valentino, Nicholas Ray on James Dean, Joan Didion on John Wayne, Rex reed on Ava Gardner, Tom Wolfe on Cary Grant, and John Updike on Doris Day, among other pieces on the Stars.

Carey McWilliams, Sam Arkoff, William Castle, and Elmore Leonard on the film business.

John Kobal on Mae West, Pauline Kael, and Norman Mailer with 2 views on Last Tango in Paris, are just a few of the pieces concerning sex & scandal in film.

The New York Times reports on the Vitascope's debut, the Philadelphia Inquirer reviews The Great Train Robbery, Maxim Gorky comments on Lumiere, Leo Tolstoy holds forth on Film, and Kevin Brownlow writes about Mary Pickford, and Gloria Swanson.

E. M. Forster writes about Minnie & Mickey, Andre Bazin writes about the Western, Robert Warshaw on Gangsters, and Manny Farber on Underground Films,.

Directors Luis Bunel, Ingmar Bergman, Preston Sturges, Jean Renoir, Akira Kurasawa, Satyajit Ray, Andrei Tarkovsky, and Spike Lee are just a few of those whose writings on film appear here.

Writers Ben Hecht, Gore Vidal, Christopher Isherwood, and Raymond Chandler are also here.

Film critics like Graham Greene, Dwight Macdonald, & Quentin Crisp have contributions here.

Nestor Almendros, Robert Benchley, Janet Leigh, and David Mamet write about technique.

F. Scott Fitzgerald, Robert Bloch, Budd Schulberg, Howard Koch, Nathaniel West, Groucho Marx, and Oscar Levant are among those who write about Hollywood.

At almost 800 pages you will never be bored, and can read the thing straight thru, or skip back and forth to your hearts content.

This is a book well worth searching out.

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

Entertaining from titles to credits

By A Customer

The picture of Ebert on the cover of this book says it all: he's gazing up at the movie screen, captured, awed, almost grateful. This marvelous anthology is his happy acknowledgement that others feel the same way about movies. It's a collection of takes on the industry--be it a particular film, a favorite star, or the behemoth that is Hollywood--from very talented participants in it. The information is fascinating, but it's the palpable love and excitement for movies that really gets across. One example: after reading reviews of "Last Tango in Paris" by Pauline Kael and Norman Mailer, I ran to the video store to rent it. (And then I ran to the bookstore for more Mailer!) I also found eerie the remarkable prescience of people like Maxim Gorky and Leo Tolstoy in their anticipation of how the industry would develop. Every single contribution to this book is colorful and fun. If you love movies, it's an important book to have.

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