Who Is Steven Spielberg

Steven Spielberg

Steven Spielberg: Director and Producer of the Jurassic Park Series

A Critical Companion to Steven Spielberg

Who Is Steven Spielberg? Children in the Films of Steven Spielberg

Steven Spielberg: A film director who has created some of the most memorable and influential movies of the past few decades. His early films were a triumphant emergence of the Sunbelt aesthetic that valued visceral kicks and basic emotions over the ambiguities of history. Such blockbusters have inspired much debate about their negative effect on politics and have been charged as being an expression of the corporatization of life. Here Frederick Wasser argues that the older Spielberg has not fully gone this way, suggesting that the filmmaker recycles the populist vision of older Hollywood because he sincerely believes in both big time moviemaking and liberal democracy. Nonetheless, his stories are burdened by his generation's hostility to public life, and the book shows how he uses filmmaking tricks to keep his audience with him and to smooth over the ideological contradictions. His audiences have become more global, as his films engage history. This fresh and provocative take on Spielberg in the context of globalization, rampant market capitalism and the hardening socio-political landscape of the United States will be fascinating reading for students of film and for anyone interested in contemporary America and its culture.

Make Spielberg Great Again: The Steven Spielberg Chronicles

Collects Armond White's film criticism on the most famous and popular filmmaker of the last half century. This pictorial study puts Steven Spielberg's career in focus: from his first feature, "The Sugarland Express", through his phenomenal blockbusters, including "Jaws", "Jurassic Park", and "Schindler's List". Photos. A film-centric portrait of the extraordinarily gifted movie director whose decades-long influence on American popular culture is unprecedented. Everything about me is in my films, Steven Spielberg has said. Taking this as a key to understanding the hugely successful moviemaker, Molly Haskell explores the full range of Spielberg's works for the light they shine upon the man himself. Through such powerhouse hits as Close Encounters of the Third Kind, E.T., Jurassic Park, and Indiana Jones, to lesser-known masterworks like A.I. and Empire of the Sun, to the haunting Schindler's List, Haskell shows how Spielberg's uniquely evocative filmmaking and story-telling reveal the many ways in which his life, work, and times are entwined. Organizing chapters around specific films, the distinguished critic discusses how Spielberg's childhood in non-Jewish suburbs, his parents' traumatic divorce, his return to Judaism upon his son's birth, and other events echo in his work. She offers a brilliant portrait of the extraordinary director a fearful boy living through his imagination who grew into a man whose openness, generosity of spirit, and creativity have enchanted audiences for more than 40 years. Director Steven Spielberg is more of an auteur than given recognition for. "The Films of Steven Spielberg" highlights the maturation of a filmmaker with movies that reflect the director's own life, fascinations, and obsessions. Spielberg's upbringing and foray into the 1970s Hollywood business structure show us the origin of themes that are consistently present in Spielberg's films such as fatherhood, World War II and the collaboration with composer John Williams. Although mainstream cinema has become dominated by franchises - Spielberg has proven to be routinely ahead of his time in the post-9/11 era. More than four decades after the premiere of his first film, Steven Spielberg (b. 1946) continues to be a household name whose influence on popular culture extends far beyond the movie screen. Now in his seventies, Spielberg shows no intention of retiring from directing or even slowing down. Since the publication of Steven Spielberg: Interviews in 2000, the filmmaker has crafted some of the most complex movies of his extensive career. His new movies consistently reinvigorate entrenched genres, adding density and depth. Many of the defining characters, motifs, tropes, and themes that emerge in Spielberg's earliest movies shape these later works as well, but often in new configurations that probe deeper into more complicated subjects—dangerous technology rather than man-eating sharks, homicidal rather than cuddly aliens, lethal terrorism instead of rampaging dinosaurs. Spielberg's movies continue to display a remarkably sophisticated level of artistry that matches, and sometimes exceeds, the memorable visual hallmarks of his prior work. His latest series of films continue to demonstrate an ongoing intellectual restlessness and a willingness to challenge himself as a creative artist. With this new collection of interviews, which includes eleven original interviews from the 2000 edition and nine new interviews, readers will recognize the themes that motivate Spielberg, the cinematic techniques he employs to create his feature films, and the emotional connection he has to his movies. This book is a nuanced and engaging portrait of the most popular director in American cinema history.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The highly anticipated sequel to the beloved worldwide bestseller Ready Player One, the near-future adventure that inspired the blockbuster Steven Spielberg film. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST. "The game is on again... A great mix of exciting fantasy and thrilling fact." -- The Wall Street Journal AN UNEXPECTED QUEST. TWO WORLDS AT STAKE. ARE YOU READY? 7 Days after winning OASIS founder James Halliday's contest, Wade Watts makes a discovery that changes everything. Hidden within Halliday's vaults, waiting for his heir to find, lies a technological advancement that will once again change the world and make the OASIS a thousand times more wondrous--and addictive--than even Wade dreamed possible. With it comes a new riddle, and a new quest--a last Easter egg from Halliday, hinting at a mysterious prize. And an unexpected, impossibly powerful, and dangerous new rival awaits, one who'll kill millions to get what he wants. Wade's life and the future of the OASIS are again at stake, but this time the fate of humanity also hangs in the balance. Lovingly nostalgic and wildly original as only Ernest Cline could conceivite, Ready Player Two takes us on another imaginative, fun, action-packed adventure through his beloved virtual universe, and jolts us thrillingly into the future once again. "Both a page-turning drama and an inspiration for every reader" -- Hilary Rodham Clinton Soon to be a major television event, the nail-biting climax of one of the greatest political battles in American history: the ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. Nashville, August 1920. Thirty-five states have approved the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote; one last state--Tennessee--is needed for women's voting rights to become the law of the land. The suffragists face vicious opposition from politicians, clergy, corporations, and racists who don't want black women voting. And then there are the "Antis"--women who oppose their...
own enfranchisement, fearing suffrage will bring about the nation's moral collapse. A nd in one hot summer, they all converge for a confrontation, replete with booze and blackmail, betrayal and courage. Following a handful of remarkable women who led their respective forces into battle, The Woman's Hour is the gripping story of how America's women won their own freedom, and the opening campaign in the great twentieth-century battles for civil rights. It's been ten years since Richard Bickerstaff sat down to breakfast and an alien climbed out of his cereal bowl! Join Richard and A ric, a tiny, wisecracking creature from the planet Ganoob, as they battle to save the world from evil aliens in Aliens for Breakfast, Aliens for Lunch, and Aliens for Dinner. We're reissuing the trilogy with brand-new covers sporting a space age 10th Anniversary logo. Now a new generation of readers can experience the fun and adventure that won these books rave reviews and loyal fans! "A biography of film director Steven Spielberg"—Provided by publisher Although the blockbuster is the most popular and commercially successful type of filmmaking, it has yet to be studied seriously from a formalist standpoint. This is in opposition to classical Hollywood cinema and International Art cinema, whose form has been analyzed and deconstructed in great detail. Directed By Steven Spielberg fills this gap by examining the distinctive form of the blockbuster. The book focuses on Spielberg's blockbusters, but he is the most consistent and successful director of this type of film - he defines the standard by which other Hollywood blockbusters are judged. The book presents the blockbusters of Spielberg in two parts: first, how did Spielberg attain this position? Second, how did such films attain such status? The book demonstrates that Spielberg's blockbusters have a unique look and use visual storytelling techniques to their utmost effectiveness. In this book, Warren Buckland examines Spielberg's distinct manipulation of film form, and his singular use of stylistic and narrative techniques. The book demonstrates the aesthetic options available to Spielberg, and particularly the choices he makes in structuring his blockbusters. Buckland emphasizes the director's activity in making a film (particularly such a powerful director as Spielberg), including: visualizing the scene on paper via storyboards; staging and blocking the scene; selecting camera placement and movement; determining the progression or flow of the film from shot to shot; and deciding how to narrate the story to the spectator. Directed By Steven Spielberg combines film studies scholarship with the approach taken by many filmmaking manuals. The unique value of the book lies in its grounding of formal film analysis in filmmaking. This collection, representing the work of scholars from a range of theoretical frameworks and disciplines, examines aspects of the preoccupation with children and childhood in Steven Spielberg's films. It includes essays on such films as Close Encounters of the Third Kind, E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, Empire of the Sun, Hook, Jurassic Park, and more. #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Now a major motion picture directed by Steven Spielberg. “Enchanting . . . Willy Wonka meets The Matrix.”— USA Today • “A one adventure leads expertly to the next, time simply evaporates.”— Entertainment Weekly A world at stake. A quest for the ultimate prize. Are you ready? In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time Wade Watts really feels alive is when he’s jacked into the OASIS, a vast virtual world where most of humanity spends their days. When the eccentric creator of the OASIS dies, he leaves behind a series of fiendish puzzles, based on his obsession with the pop culture of decades past. Whoever is first to solve them will inherit his vast control of the OASIS itself. Then Wade cracks the first clue. Suddenly he’s beset by rivals who’ll kill to take this prize. The race is on—and the only way to survive is to win. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Entertainment Weekly • San Francisco Chronicle • Village Voice • Chicago Sun-Times • IO9 • The AV Club “Delightful . . . the grown-up’s Harry Potter.”— Huffington Post “An addictive read . . . part intergalactic scavenger hunt, part romance, and all heart.”— CNN “A most excellent ride . . . Cline stuffs his novel with a cornucopia of pop culture, as if to wink to the reader.”— Boston Globe “Ridiculously fun and large-hearted . . . Cline is that rare writer who can translate his own dorky enthusiasms into prose that’s both hilarious and compassionate.”— Newsday “It winds up feeling like a rich and plausible picture of future friendships in a world not too distant from our own.”— IO9 Illustrated biographies featuring a range of fascinating figures from history (and current figures, too!) provide great information and entertainment through short chapters and illustrations that relate to reluctant readers as well as middle readers in general. Original Profiles the award-winning director of blockbuster movies, including Jurassic Park, E.T. the Extra Terrestrial, and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. This volume presents an in-depth discussion of the work of Steven Spielberg, an American director of Jewish origin. It offers a careful study of the audiovisual and documentary material in Spielberg's filmography, exploring both the biographical and sociological influence that his cinematic work and his values, and the director's own personal testimony and critics' comments on the value of dignity and other subjects prevalent in his work. The book then goes on to analyse the formal elements used by the filmmaker in his work, and his maturity in relation to anthropological matters. Discusses the personal life and professional career of successful filmmaker, Steven Spielberg. Until the first edition of Steven Spielberg: A Biography was published in 1997, much about Spielberg's personality and the forces that shaped it had remained enigmatic, in large part because of his tendency to obscure and mythologize his own past. But in this first full-scale, in-depth biography of Spielberg, Joseph McBride reveals hidden dimensions of the filmmaker's personality and shows how deeply personal even his most commercial work has been. This new edition adds four chapters to Spielberg's life story, chronicling his extraordinarily creative and productive period from 1997 to the present, a period in which he has balanced his executive duties as one of the partners in the film studio DreamWorks SKG with a remarkable string of films as a director. Spielberg's ambitious recent work—including Amistad, Saving Private Ryan, A.I. Artificial Intelligence, Minority Report, The Terminal and Munich—has continually expanded his range both stylistically and in terms of adventurous, often controversial, subject matter. Steven Spielberg: A Biography brought about a reevaluation of the great filmmaker's life and work by those who viewed him as merely a facile entertainer. This new edition guides readers through the mature artistry of Spielberg's later period in which he manages, against considerable odds, to run a successful studio while maintaining and enlarging his high artistic standards as one of America's most thoughtful, sophisticated, and popular filmmakers. This title examines the remarkable life of Steven Spielberg. Readers will learn about his family background, childhood, and education, his career as a movie producer and director, and his famous works. Color photos and informative sidebars accompany easy-to-read, compelling text. Features include a timeline, fast facts, lists of famous works, and a critical evaluation activity. Checkerboard Library is an imprint of A bdo Publishing, a division of A B D O. Detailed textual analysis of films from Spielberg's entire career reveal that alongside conventional commercial appeal, his movies function as a self-reflective, they invite divergent readings and self-conscious spectatorship which contradict assumptions about their ideological matters. Since the early 1970s, Steven Spielberg has directed more than two dozen films, many of which have achieved classic status. In addition to critical and commercial successes that include E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Schindler's List, Saving Private Ryan, and Lincoln, Spielberg's name has become synonymous with such thrilling adventure films as Jaws, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Jurassic Park, and Minority Report. Before he became a world-renowned filmmaker, however, Spielberg established himself on television, helming episodes of Rod Serling's Night Gallery; M's Welby, M.D.; and Columbo. But it was the small-screen version of a Richard Mathan short story that brought the young director's work to the attention of critics and viewers alike. In Steven Spielberg and Duel: The Making of a Film Career, Steven A walt provides an exhaustive study commemorating the film that decisively launched the career.
of a major film artist. Through in-depth research and interviews with the film’s creative and technical crew, the author tracks the film from genesis through production to release. A well conducted lengthy one-on-one interviews with Spielberg, M atheson, assistant director James Fargo, editor Frank M orris, composer Billy Goldenberg, former MCAA universal president Sidney J. Sheinberg, and writer-producer Steven Bochco, among others. Spielberg provided access to many rare documents from his archives, including multiple drafts of Duel’s teleplay, the shooting schedule, shooting logistics breakdowns, and production correspondence. The first book-length examination of this important production in the director’s early career, Steven Spielberg and Duel also includes the original teleplay by M atheson, four additional scenes created for the international theatrical release of the film, photos, and storyboards of the film’s final sequence. A fascinating look behind the scenes of an acclaimed work, this book will interest not only scholars and film historians but anyone interested in work of Richard M atheson and Steven Spielberg. Presents the childhood, career, and family life of the motion picture producer and director Steven Spielberg. "First published in hardcover in Great Britain by V iking, an imprint of Penguin Books, a division of Penguin Random House Ltd., London"—Copyright page. This book reveals how Spielberg utilizes stylistic strategies that are both unique and innovative when considered within the context of the classical Hollywood system. James M airata identifies two distinct systems at work in Spielberg’s application of style. One is the use of deep space compositions and staging, a system that was common in Hollywood cinema until the rise of the New Hollywood in the early 1970s. The other system is based on the ubiquitous shot, reverse shot arrangement most commonly used for dialogue scenes, and which Spielberg has modified into what the author describes as wide reverses. Through the integration of both systems, Spielberg is able to create a more complete visual sense of scenographic space and a more comprehensive world of the narrative, while still remaining within the conventional boundaries of classical style. The wide reverse system also permits him to present a more highly developed version of Hollywood’s conventional practice of rendering style as transparent or unnoticed. This volume shows that this, together with the wide reverse further enables Spielberg to create a narrative that offers the spectator both a more immersive and more affective experience. Steven Spielberg is the director or producer of over one third of the thirty highest grossing films of all time, yet most film scholars dismiss him as little more than a modern P. T. Barnum—a technically gifted and intellectually shallow showman who substitutes spectacle for substance. To date, no book has attempted to analyze the components of his worldview, the issues which animate his most significant works, the roots of his immense popularity, and the influence his vast spectrum of imaginative products exerts on the public consciousness. In Citizen Spielberg, Lester D. Friedman fills that void with a systematic analysis of the various genres in which the director has worked, including science fiction (E.T.), adventure (Raiders trilogy), race films (The Color Purple, A mistad), and war films (Saving Private Ryan, Schindler’s List). Friedman concludes that Spielberg’s films present a sustained artistic vision combined with a technical flair matched by few other filmmakers, and makes a compelling case for Spielberg to be considered as a major film artist. In the vein of J urassic Park, this high-concept thriller follows a group of graduate students lured to Hawaii to work for a mysterious biotech company—only to find themselves cast out into the rain forest, with nothing but their scientific expertise and wits to protect them. An instant classic, Micro pits nature against technology in vintage Michael Crichton fashion. Completed by visionary science writer Richard Preston, this boundary-pushing thriller melds scientific fact with pulse-pounding fiction to create yet another masterpiece of sophisticated, cutting-edge entertainment. While other kids played sports, Steven Spielberg was writing scripts and figuring out camera angles. He went from entertaining his Boy Scout troop with home movies to amazing audiences around the world with epic blockbusters. He has directed four of the most successful films of all time and has won two Academy Awards for Best Director: for Schindler’s List in 1994 and Saving Private Ryan in 1999. Seven of his films have received the Best Picture Oscar nomination. He has brought to life some of the most popular heroes of all time, such as Indiana Jones, as well as some of the most despised villains, including Amon Goeth from Schindler’s List and the killer shark from Jaws. Whatever the subject—dinosaurs, war, extra-terrestrial, slavery, the Holocaust, or terrorism—one clear and consistent touchstone is present in all of Spielberg’s films: an interest in the human condition. In Steven Spielberg and Philosophy, Dean A. Kowalski and some of the nation’s most respected philosophers analyze Spielberg’s art to illuminate the nature of humanity. The book explores rich themes such as cinematic realism, fictional belief, terrorism, family ethics, consciousness, virtue and moral character, human rights, and religion in Spielberg’s work. A vivid moviegoers and deep thinkers will discover plenty of common ground in this collection. A milky Island is a peaceful seaside resort and the new home of Police Chief Martin Brody. As a new holiday season approaches reports begin to come in of people being attacked at sea around the island. It soon becomes apparent to Brody that this will be a summer like no other. The dramatic events behind the film ‘Bridge of Spies.’ Bridge of Spies is a gripping, entertaining, hair-raising and comical story, which moves effortlessly from the hardware of high-flying planes and new missiles to the geopolitics of the nuclear stand-off and through the poignant personal stories of its central protagonists: Powers, the all-American hero, blacklisted for not having killed himself on his descent to earth; a KGB spy who has spent aimless and lonely years achieving nothing in the US; and the opposing leaders Khrushchev and Eisenhower, both trapped in a spiral of confrontation neither wants. Telling the true story that inspired L e Carré’s famous scene, Bridge of Spies is a brilliant take on the absurdity and heroism of the Cold War days that will appeal to a new generation of readers unfamiliar with the history but drawn in by the compelling and vividly recreated narrative. A Companion to Steven Spielberg provides an authoritative collection of essays exploring the achievements and legacy of one of the most influential film directors of the modern era. Offers comprehensive coverage of Spielberg’s directorial output, from early works including Duel, The Sugarland Express, and Jaws, to recent films Explores Spielberg’s contribution to the development of visual effects and computer games, as well as the critical and popular reception of his films. Topics
include in-depth analyses of Spielberg's themes, style, and filming techniques; commercial and cultural significance of the Spielberg 'brand' and his parallel career as a producer; and collaborative projects with artists and composers. Brings together an international team of renowned scholars and emergent voices, balancing multiple perspectives and critical approaches. Creates a timely and illuminating resource which acknowledges the ambiguity and complexity of Spielberg's work, and reflects its increasing importance to film scholarship. A biography of the filmmaker responsible for such popular films as "Jaws," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," and "E.T." Steven Spielberg is responsible for some of the most successful films ever made: Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, E.T., and the 'Indiana Jones' series. Yet for many years, most critics condescendingly regarded Spielberg as a child-man incapable of dealing maturely with the complexities of life. The deeper levels of meaning in his films were largely ignored. This changed with Schindler's List, his masterpiece about a gentile businessman who saves eleven hundred Jews from the Holocaust. For Spielberg, the film was the culmination of a long struggle with his Jewish identity - an identity of which he had long been ashamed, but now triumphantly embraced. Until the first edition of Steven Spielberg: A Biography was published in 1997, much about Spielberg's personality and the forces that shaped it had remained enigmatic, in large part because of his tendency to obscure and mythologize his own past. In his astute and perceptive biography, Joseph McBride reconciled Spielberg's seeming contradictions and produced a coherent portrait of the man who found a way to transmute the anxieties of his own childhood into some of the most emotionally powerful and viscerally exciting films ever made. In the second edition, McBride added four chapters to Spielberg's life story, chronicling his extraordinarily active and creative period from 1997 to 2010, a period in which he balanced his executive duties as one of the partners in the film studio DreamWorks SKG with a remarkable string of films as a director: A mistad, Saving Private Ryan, A. I. Artificial Intelligence, Minority Report, The Terminal and Munich -- films which expanded his range both stylistically and in terms of adventurous, often controversial, subject matter. This third edition brings Spielberg's career up to date with material on two recent films he directed, The Adventures of Tintin and War Horse, analyzing what they represent in terms of Spielberg's overall career development as an artist making both lighter and darker works alternately involving fantasy or history. The new sections also deal with the recent upheavals in Spielberg's position as a minomogul, his uneven but prolific work as a producer, and his upcoming projects. The original edition of Steven Spielberg: A Biography was praised by the New York Times Book Review as 'an exemplary portrait' written with 'impressive detail and sensitivity'; Time called it 'easily the finest and fairest of the unauthorized biographies of the director.' Of the second edition, Nigel Morris - author of The Cinema of Steven Spielberg: Empire of Light - wrote: 'With this tour de force, McBride remains the godfather of Spielberg studies.' Based on interviews with the director and his family, offers a behind-the-scenes look at the movie-obsessed creator of "E.T.," "Schindler's List," "Jaws," and other masterpieces.(FAQ). One of the most popular directors and producers in film history, Steven Spielberg is considered a founding pioneer of the New Hollywood era. Stephen Spielberg FAQ presents an all-encompassing look at the great artist's career and work from his early science-fiction and adventure films ( Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, and Raiders of the Lost Ark ) to his historical films ( Schindler's List, Amistad, Saving Private Ryan, Munich, War Horse, and Lincoln ). Including chapters on the origins of his movies, the locations, the use of music in his films, and an extensive timeline of pivotal events from his life and career, this is a comprehensive guide to the work of the most successful and high-profile filmmaker of modern times.