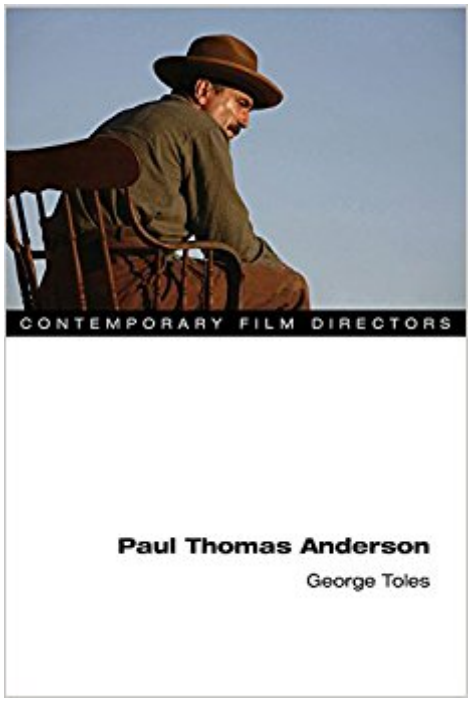
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Paul Thomas Anderson (Contemporary Film Directors)



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Synopsis

Since his explosive debut with the indie sensation Hard Eight , Paul Thomas Anderson has established himself as one of contemporary cinema’s most exciting artists. His 2002 feature Punch-Drunk Love radically reimagined the romantic comedy. Critics hailed There Will Be Blood as a key film of the new millennium. In The Master , Anderson jarred audiences with dreamy amorphousness and a departure from conventional story mechanics. Acclaimed film scholar and screenwriter George Toles approaches these three films in particular, and Anderson’s oeuvre in general, with a focus on the role of emergence and the production of the unaccountable. Anderson, Toles shows, is an artist obsessed with history, workplaces, and environments but also intrigued by spaces as projections of the people who dwell within. Toles follows Anderson from the open narratives of Boogie Nights and Magnolia through the pivot that led to his more recent films, Janus-faced masterpieces that orbit around isolated central characters--and advance Anderson’s journey into allegory and myth. Blending penetrative analysis with a deep knowledge of filmic storytelling, Paul Thomas Anderson tours an important filmmaker’s ever-deepening landscape of disconnection.

Book Information

Series: Contemporary Film Directors
Paperback: 232 pages
Publisher: University of Illinois Press; Reprint edition (July 18, 2016)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0252081854
ISBN-13: 978-0252081859
Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.4 x 8.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 13.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item
Best Sellers Rank: #598,606 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #188 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Individual Directors #333 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Movie Directors #770 inÃ Â Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Video > Direction & Production

Customer Reviews

George Toles is film studies’ most astute close reader and its finest prose stylist. This book captures the ineffable strangeness of P. T. Anderson’s films--their unusual forms, unsettled soundscapes,

and characters wanting unmet connections. Toles explores the subjective interiors and cultural terrain these blinkered selves--and we viewers--cannot fully see. It's been said that actors are our substitutes, avatars who test unplumbed psychic depths. So it is with Toles, our guide to these miraculous films.--Carol Vernallis, author of Unruly Media: Youtube, Music Video, and the New Digital Cinema Scriptwriter for films by Guy Maddin, George Toles is also one of the most insightful and articulate critics writing today. Tackling the enigmatic Paul Thomas Anderson, Toles probes these dramas of isolation, revealing both desperate violence and the possibility of communion.--Tom Gunning, author of The Films of Fritz Lang: Allegories of Vision and Modernity Here, caught within its covers, is the inimitable George Toles's richly challenging and brilliantly lambent voyage into the world of P. T. Anderson. Always turning and returning, always leaping and quivering with thought, the book opens Anderson to a new sense of value and depth that reveals his poetry, his multiplicities, and his touch upon our lives.--Murray Pomerance, author of Moment of Action: Riddles of Cinematic Performance

The acclaimed critic and screenwriter charts P. T. Anderson's landscape of disconnection

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