



Film Theory: An Introduction Through the Senses

Thomas Elsaesser, Malte Hagener

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What is the relationship between cinema and spectator? That is the central question for film theory, and renowned film scholars Thomas Elsaesser and Malte Hagener use this question to guide students through all of the major film theories - from the classical period to today - in this insightful, engaging book. Every kind of cinema (and film theory) imagines an ideal spectator, and then imagines a certain relationship between the mind and body of that spectator and the screen. Using seven distinctive configurations of spectator and screen that move progressively from 'exterior' to 'interior' relationships, the authors retrace the most important stages of film theory from 1945 to the present, from neo-realist and modernist theories to psychoanalytic, 'apparatus', phenomenological and cognitivist theories.

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LibreriaInfinita says

Saggio davvero interessante sulla teoria del film, consigliato agli amanti del cinema e soprattutto a chi studia cinema.

Bri says

Painful, but vital.

Debbi says

Dannatamente denso e difficile da approcciare. Ma una volta che si prende il ritmo, è una porta aperta sul cinema che, mentre passi, ti ricopre di conoscenza.
Ci vuole impegno, ma la sostanza ti resta.

Paul Dilley says

A nice romp through some thought-provoking theories of film, both classic and contemporary, with reference to some great movies from all eras; there's even a bit on VR at the end. I realize it's a different medium, but would have appreciated a bit more on animated films, which make up a very high percentage of my screen time these days!

Francesco Pizzoni says

2.5 / 5

Simone says

This is an interesting approach to film theory which organizes bodies of pre-existing literature around metaphors of the body, seeing, hearing, etc. It's an interesting way to think about film theory and film history in a completely different way. However, I wouldn't recommend this for an intro level class, I think you'd get more out of it with a pretty solid understanding of film theory, or even with an introductory knowledge of film theory. Still, it's a compelling argument and organization.

Bree says

For anyone interested in film theory, but don't know where to start or you do know where to start and have started, read this anyways. The always excellent Elsaesser gives an overview of theories organized on the spectator's body and its relationship to cinema. An excellent and thorough overview that I find very useful, if not extremely enjoyable to read. Elsaesser is good with prose and is very clear. The chapter on cinema as skin is his best.

Tree Yager says

The arguments here are incredibly interesting, ultimately rearranging traditional ways of conceiving film theory away from a formalist/realist, psychoanalytic/cognitive binary structure to one organized around conceptions of the body and spectator in relation to film. The metaphors are deep and encourage readers to rethink how they interact with cinema and with theory of cinema.

However, this is in no way an introduction. Elsaesser and Hagener assume a general familiarity with film theory, for the most part, and spend more time advancing their own theory of cinema spectatorship than introducing pre-existing ones. I would recommend this book after a basic familiarity with major film theoreticians has been achieved.

Vaiva Sapetkait? says

?ia ta situacija, kai m?stydamas meta, supranti, kad knyga gera ir ? j? ?d?ta labai daug darbo ir žini?, bet tiesiogiai mažai susigaudei, kas realiai ten vyksta :)

Jau?iausi kaip nemokytas barbaras: ?ia buvo tiek nesuprantam? žodži?, kad jau tikrai prad?jau m?styti, jog mano išsilavinimas - ištisos žini? spragos. Kod?l taip nutiko? Tod?l, kad ?ia viskas remiasi filosofija, ?vairiomis jos teorijomis etc, o aš nuoširdžiai (ir aistringai) vis? gyvenim? nesidom?jau filosofija. Taigi, "Kino teorija: ?vadas per jusli? prizm?" man buvo ištisa kan?ia :D Vis tik ?veikiau j?: nežinau, kiek naudos iš to gavau, na, bet bent jau kontekste geriau susigaudysiu. Gal kada nors j? perskaitysiu antr? kart? (jei užeis mazochistin?s nuotaikos) ir galvosiu kitaip, bet dabar tai net negaliu ži?r?ti ? šit? knyg? :)
