

Hitchcock At Work

By Bill Krohn

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Hitchcock at Work is a comprehensive, behind-the-scenes examination of the work of 'The Master of Suspense', Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980). It examines the director's entire career from the early films made in the UK in the 1920s and 30s, to his move to Hollywood where he came to co-produce as well as direct his films. Film expert Bill Krohn looks beyond the usual anecdotal sources about Hitchcock, paying unprecedented attention to the director's personal papers and the archives of the film studios for which he worked. This seminal survey includes rare shooting schedules, budgets, memos, letters, storyboards and transcripts of discussions with key collaborators. The result is a major reassessment of the working methods of this historic director: one that transcends many of the myths often promulgated by Hitchcock himself that have warped previous criticism. Hitchcock at Work is fully illustrated throughout in both colour and black and white, and features stills from films, shots taken on set, storyboards and annotated film scripts. A complete filmography reveals the scope of Hitchcock's momentous career, suggesting the subtle nuances of its development.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
Considering the wealth of Alfred Hitchcock books produced recently, it's good that Krohn (Hollywood correspondent for the influential Cahiers du cin ma) finds the director's oeuvre inexhaustible. First published last year in France, where it won the Prix de la Critique, this book refutes the director's mythology. Krohn argues that the enigmatic director, once quoted as saying that once the screenplay was finished the actual making of the film bored him, was more open to improvisation and less a slave to the script and storyboard than his public image allowed. Focusing on the Hollywood years, Krohn examines each of the major films and details the progression of the filming, from casting to titling, adding interesting commentary gleaned from Hitchcock's papers. Although the thesis is a bit overstated, the sumptuous photographs alone make this a necessary addition to film libraries. A very readable treatment for scholars and popular audiences and a fine study for film collections.DKelli Perkins, Herrick Dist. Lib., Holland, MI
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Review
'Of all the books on the Master, Bill Krohn's is quite the most splendid and involving. Given the kind of breathtaking visual treatment that is the hallmark of the publisher Phaidon, keen and penetrating text is matched by the images, often spread impressively across two pages that do full justice to the remarkable pictorial qualities of Hitchcock's films. Absolutely essential.' (News International Genre Hotline) 'A work of art in its own right.' (Total Film)

From the Publisher
A comprehensive, behind-the-scenes examination of the work of director Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980). Fully illustrated throughout in colour and black and white, this book examines all of the director's career, from the early films made in the UK in the 20th and 30th, to his move to Hollywood where he became co-producer as well as director of his films. It therefore provides an overview of his movies as well as being a visual celebration of one of the word's most renowned directors. Many of the illustrations are published here for the first time and include film stills, shots from film sets, storyboards and reproductions of Hitchcock's annotated scripts. The book also includes a complete filmography.

Users Review

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Brenda Taylor:

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Helen Scott:

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