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Oxford presents the updated edition of the book that Richard Gilman called “the best single work of its kind.”

HOW TO READ A FILM

Movies, Media, and Beyond

by James Monaco

(May 14, 2009 | Oxford | \$29.95 | 736 pages | 9780195321050)

“Monaco’s book was an instant classic when it first came out, and with new sections in its anniversary edition, is more essential than ever. A landmark in media studies, it is unique in its sophisticated understanding of both the art and technology of film.”

—Molly Haskell, critic

Praise for the previous editions:

"Anyone who writes about film, or who is interested in film seriously, just has to have it."

– Richard Roud, Director of the New York Film Festival

"The book’s biggest virtue, aside from its range, is its ability to explain complicated technical or ideological points without taking any previous knowledge for granted. A neophyte could come away with an equal understanding of sophisticated ideas...and an expert would not be bored."

– Janet Maslin, *The New York Times Book Review*

"This book is a compliment to the reader... Monaco's spirit is gracious; he has a gift for making accumulations of detail relevant and uncluttered. His manner is modest and undidactic, and he is painstakingly scrupulous."

– *Film Comment*

When it was first published in 1977, **HOW TO READ A FILM** established itself as a genuine classic in film studies and has been considered by many to be *the* source on film and media.

Monaco's original book looked at film from many vantage points, exploring the medium as both art and craft, sensibility and science, tradition and technology. It examined film's close relation to other narrative media such as the novel, painting, photography, television, and even music. Monaco discussed those elements necessary to understand how films convey meaning and, more importantly, how we can best discern all that a film is attempting to communicate.

Now, in this new, fourth edition, James Monaco brings his work fully up to date and into the twenty-first century as he explores the new and still-evolving digital context of film, multimedia, virtual reality, cyberspace, and how they all relate to film. This completely revised and expanded edition also features a new preface, several new sections, nearly five hundred illustrative film stills, and more than sixty diagrams.

New sections in **HOW TO READ A FILM** include:

- **Digital Tipping Points:** why digital is untrustworthy; how technology has radically changed the art; and what filmmakers and viewers can do to preserve quality and the truth of the image.
- **Movies in the Oughts:** Beyond Cinema: Metafiction, Metareality, and the growth of the virtual world; Gross-out humor and Post-modern narrative.
- **The Mediasphere:** How recent profound changes in the architecture of communications have changed the way we live and consume media. How to restore the balance between the virtual world of art and the real, natural world.
- **The Virtual World:** describes our contemporary culture where everyone is connected, not to each other but to each other's images, and why the ring-tone market rivals the feature film business.
- **Reading about Film and Media:** A Select Library: Two-Hundred-Fifty Books About Film and Media You Should Read.

As Monaco writes, "The way we process text, images, and sounds today is radically different from what it was thirty years ago. And the union of media, which the invention of movies foreshadowed more than a hundred years ago, is now a reality...The medium is reinventing itself: now, if you can think it, you can film it."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James Monaco is a writer, publisher, and producer. His books include *American Film Now*, *The New Wave*, *The Encyclopedia of Film*, and *The Connoisseur's Guide to the Movies*. He lives and works in the New York City area.

HOW TO READ A FILM ***Movies, Media, and Beyond***

by James Monaco, will be published by Oxford as a paperback on May 14, 2009
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