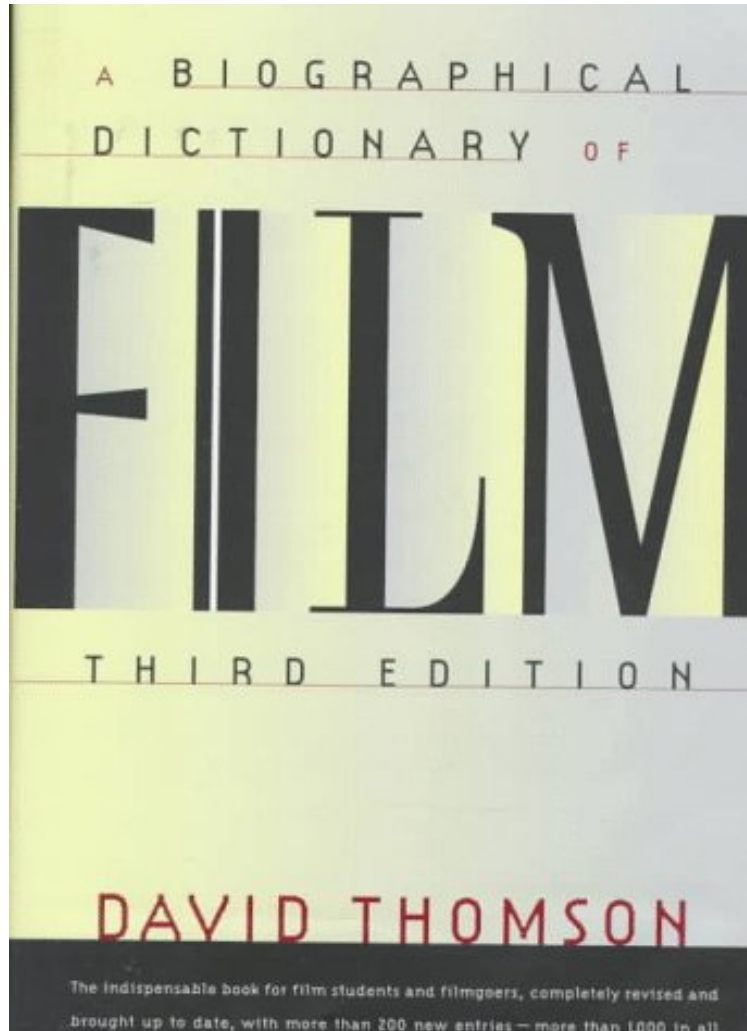


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A Biographical Dictionary Of Film: Third Edition

David Thomson

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David Thomson : A Biographical Dictionary Of Film: Third Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Biographical Dictionary Of Film: Third Edition:

1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Bios by a BadmouthBy Jack RiceI was looking forward to something more opinionated than the useful and comprehensive but rather dry film bios of Katz's Film Encyclopedia. Well, I got opinion in this Biographical Dictionary. Unfortunately, that opinion is from someone who apparently thinks one must be a curmudgeon in order to be a critic. It is obvious from this massive and hard-laboured work, that David Thomson is a pedant and a misanthrope. He really doesn't like much of anyone, especially those whose output is entertainment. Woe be unto the actor or director deemed here as (a) politically incorrect or (b) an audience pleaser. As George Lucas has said, Thomson doesn't know much about the movie business. But he does know about Ceenma

Art. If you are the type who thinks himself a cinema Enthusiast, who lives at the Penultimate Picture Palace, swooning at spittle on the faces of Dreyers's close-ups, you will no doubt relish Thomson's tome. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Most Astute Celebrity Biographical Dictionary Around By Pamela Wells If you love good, pointed writing, writing that really goes to the heart of what we see on the big screen when we see certain film actors, this is your book. Really well-written, certainly opinionated (but justifiably, in all cases), thoughtful, insightful, amusing, witty. As you read each entry, you'll be saying to yourself, "That's EXACTLY how I feel about SoAndSo!," because the author expresses each film person's essence so aptly. The author has apparently known and/or met many of the entries, so is able to add personal experience with these people to his vast historical knowledge of their work. A wonderful work. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. An eccentric, beautifully written and fun book. By Robert Hauser This book is not encyclopedic; personal faves like Donald Pleasence and John Carradine are omitted despite hundreds of credits. Thomson apparently wrote about just those who interested him. He expresses himself beautifully. He has a real gift for finding just the right words to convey his ideas. As always with critics, one remembers the opinions that seem loopy because he differs with everyone else. The revered directors like Kubrick he hates. The veteran actors I like he dismisses. His weird essays on comedians in which he treats being funny as of secondary importance. But he is always entertaining, and I found his attacks on some of my favorite actors (George Raft, Anthony Quinn) hilarious. Highly recommended.

A diverse, personal film reference provides some one thousand entries on leading international actors and actresses, directors, and producers, along with frequently provocative critical essays, profiles, and film analyses.

From Library Journal The latest edition of Thomson's guide contains 1000 entries on leading international directors, actors, and producers, living and dead, including 200 entries added since the publication of the second edition in 1981. A critic for Film Comment and Movieline, among other venues, Thomson balances often acidic critiques with brief biographical data, giving the reader an opportunity to pause for reflection. Coverage is relatively broad, ranging from Federico Fellini to James Coburn, thus giving the casual browser a feel for the breadth of cinema. A few significant personalities (e.g., James Spader) could have replaced others (e.g., Molly Ringwald) of lesser merit, but that is a quibble. Unique in size and scope, Thomson's work is a fitting companion to Halliwell's Filmgoer's and Video Viewer's Companion (HarperPerennial, 1993. 10th ed.). An excellent, highly recommended compact sourcebook for all film collections. Anthony J. Adam, Prairie View AM Univ. Tex. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Inside Flap Revised, updated, and expanded, here is the indispensable reference for passionate filmgoers. Each of the 1,000 entries on leading international actors, directors, and producers is a carefully considered, perceptive, often provocative essay. As a result, the book is a major work of film criticism of the most informative and entertaining kind.