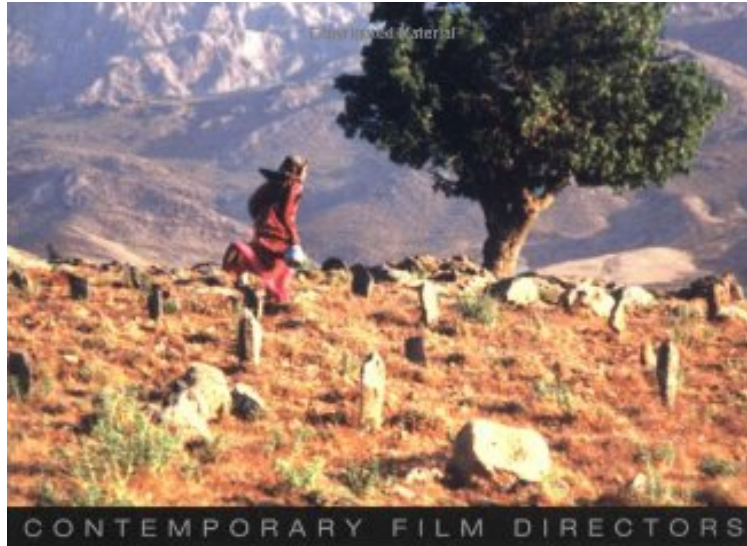


[Library ebook] Abbas Kiarostami (Contemporary Film Directors)

Abbas Kiarostami (Contemporary Film Directors)

Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa, Jonathan Rosenbaum
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Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa, Jonathan Rosenbaum : Abbas Kiarostami (Contemporary Film Directors) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Abbas Kiarostami (Contemporary Film Directors):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting interviews with great director. By Joe Nathan Very interesting interviews with one of the great film directors. This book is said to be a new edition of another book also called "Abbas Kiarostami" (published by Hazan), but they are totally different books. The Hazan book is a beautiful

book of great photographs. 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Decent intro to this Iranian master
Hairy Lime
This book consists of a 41 page essay by Rosenbaum, a 30 page essay by Saeed-Vafa, a 22 page dialogue between the two authors and ends with 20 pages of various interviews with Kiarostami. Rosenbaum, always a strong proponent of world cinema, gives an good introduction to Iranian cinema in general and also to Kiarostami. Saeed-Vafa writes as a native Iranian and from a feminist perspective. Both essays are interesting and informative. My major criticism comes in the dialogue between the authors: Rosenbaum uses the conversation to continue a spat he was having with fellow writer Howard Hampton, who thought Rosenbaum liked foreign directors too much and domestic directors too little. While Saeed-Vafa tries to bring the dialogue to more relevant topics, Rosebaum continually brings Hampton back up: "What about Hampton's charge that I..." and later "Maybe Hampton thinks I'm being snobbish..." He just comes off as being petty. The two authors also take shots at well-known movie critic Roger Ebert for not liking Kiarostami. Overall, this is a good introduction to Kiarostami and I would still recommend it to those interested in him or Iranian cinema in general, but the dialogue section gets a little bogged down with the professional spat between Rosenbaum and Hampton.

This penetrating study of the Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami's life and work engages a cross-cultural dialogue between Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa, an Iranian filmmaker, and Jonathan Rosenbaum, a film critic, both of whom have an intense interest in Kiarostami's work. A pioneer in Iranian cinema and considered one of the most controversial and influential filmmakers alive, Kiarostami has written or directed more than twenty films. He gained notoriety in the West in the 1990s with the breakaway films *Close-Up* and *Through the Olive Trees* and became the first Iranian director to win the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for *Taste of Cherry*. He is also largely credited for his contributions to the Iranian New Wave. Abbas Kiarostami is the first full-length, English-language study of his work. A unique and resplendent collaboration featuring two distinct but complementing perspectives, the book places Kiarostami and his films in a national context and provides American readers with valuable insights into Iranian culture, Kiarostami's portrayal of women and politics, and his influence on other filmmakers.

"... a useful basic introduction to Kiarostami and contemporary Iranian film... The clearly written and comprehensive essays would be of particular interest and use to those interested in cultivating a richer understanding of world cinema... Since the field of Kiarostami scholarship remains regrettably sparse, this monograph is an crucial addition to film studies libraries everywhere."--*Film Interational*, 11, 2004:5