

The New Biographical Dictionary of Film



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David Thomson's New Biographical Dictionary of Film topped Sight & Sound magazine's 2010 poll of international critics and writers as the best film book of all time.

Now in its fifth edition, updated, and with more than 130 new entries—from Judd Apatow to Lena Horne—the classic, beloved film book is better than ever.

For thirty-five years, David Thomson's Biographical Dictionary of Film has been "fiendishly seductive" (Greil Marcus, Rolling Stone), "the finest reference book ever written about movies" (Graham Fuller, Interview), and "not only an indispensable book about cinema, but one of the most absurdly ambitious literary achievements of our time" (Geoff Dyer, The Guardian). For this edition, Thomson has brought up to date and in some case recast the biographies, and has added new ones (Clive Owen, Scarlett Johansson, Jake Gyllenhaal, and Marion Cotillard, for example). The book now includes almost 1,500 entries, some of them just a pungent paragraph, some of them several thousand words long, every one a gem.

Here is a great, rare book that encompasses the chaos of art, entertainment, money,

vulgarity, and nonsense that we call the movies. Personal, opinionated, funny, daring, provocative, and passionate, it is the one book that every filmmaker and film buff must own, from the man David Hare called “the most stimulating and thoughtful film critic now writing.”

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