

Foucault at the Movies

Patrice Maniglier , Dork Zabunyan , Clare O'Farrell (Translator)

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Michel Foucault's work on film, although not extensive, compellingly illustrates the power of bringing his unique vision to bear on the subject and offers valuable insights into other aspects of his thought. *Foucault at the Movies* brings together all of Foucault's commentary on film, some of it available for the first time in English, along with important contemporary analysis and further extensions of this work.

Patrice Maniglier and Dork Zabunyan situate Foucault's writings on film in the context of the rest of his work as well as within a broad historical and philosophical framework. They detail how Foucault's work directly or indirectly inspired both film critics and directors in surprising ways and discuss his ideas in relation to significant movements within film theory and practice. The book includes film reviews and discussions by Foucault as well as his interviews with the prestigious film magazine *Cahiers du cinéma* and other journals. Also included are his dialogues with the noted French feminist writer Hélène Cixous and film directors Werner Schroeter and René Féret. Throughout, Foucault and those he is in conversation with reflect on the relationship of film to history, the body, power and politics, knowledge, sexuality, aesthetics, and institutions of internment. *Foucault at the Movies* makes all of Foucault's writings on film available to an English-speaking audience in one volume and offers detailed, up-to-date commentary, inviting us to go to the movies with Foucault.

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From Reader Review Foucault at the Movies for online ebook

Mrs. Europaea says

I think Maniglier and Zabunyan really challenge the reader to think critically with the new release Foucault at the Movies.

You can definitely tell this is more for the academic or film nerd than your average Joe, as there are very heavy themes, terminology and concepts presented throughout the text that could make this a tedious read for those not passionate about thinking otherwise.

Kendra says

Foucault at the Movies offers an two essays, by Dork Zabunyan and Patrice Maniglier, that serve as exegeses of the ways in which Foucault's work can be applied to theorizing on cinema, followed by Foucault's own interviews with Cahiers du cinema and discussions with Hélène Cixous, Werner Schroeter, and René Féret.. Zabunyan writes directly about using Foucault as a tool for approaching the moving image, and in particular how Foucault's grappling with history and popular history informs film studies and related areas. Maniglier takes on "Foucault's Metaphysics of the Event Illuminated by Cinema," a mercurial piece of writing that engages with the contradictions between approaches to history. While Zabunyan's essay could be used as an introduction to Foucaultian thought and film, Maniglier's is not for beginners. But I am not sure it is needed for advanced scholars either, as the topics included are ones long discussed in the film studies community and related areas in inquiry. The most valuable part of the book is its reproductions of Foucault's interviews with various directors and other thinkers on memory, popular history, and visual media. While the essays by the authors are valuable, they do not particularly offer new insights, instead spending a lot of space on defending Foucault from having not done more work with film. This is unnecessary: Foucault's writing is such that it can be easily applied to various media and a wide range of genres within media. An annotated volume of the interviews might well have been a better project.

J.D. Dehart says

Academic and well-focused, Foucault at the Movies explores the intersection of this theorist and the medium of film in a detailed and thoughtful way.

The authors connect Foucault to the French New Wave movement of cinema and bring his key ideas to bear in a way that is fascinating and well-grounded.

Recommended for scholars and students who wish to learn more about Foucault, as well as those who study film.
