

Ed Harris History Of Violence



Ed Harris's History of Violence: A Deep Dive into His Powerful Performance

Ed Harris. The name itself conjures images of intensity, grit, and unwavering determination. But his performance in David Cronenberg's *A History of Violence* stands apart, a masterclass in understated menace and simmering rage. This post delves deep into Harris's portrayal of the seemingly ordinary man with a shockingly violent past, exploring his character's complexities and the impact of his performance on the film's overall success. We'll analyze his acting choices, discuss the film's themes, and examine how Harris's contribution cemented *A History of Violence* as a modern classic.

The Unassuming Menace: Harris's Portrayal of Bill Riker

Ed Harris doesn't play the obvious villain in *A History of Violence*. Instead, he embodies Bill Riker, a figure of unsettling ambiguity. His quiet demeanor, almost shy at times, belies a chilling ruthlessness that emerges gradually, creating a palpable sense of unease. This isn't a performance fueled by explosive outbursts; it's a slow burn, a controlled eruption of violence simmering beneath a deceptively calm exterior.

The Power of Subtext: What Harris Doesn't Say

Harris's brilliance lies in his ability to communicate volumes with minimal dialogue. His subtle shifts in expression, the barely perceptible clenches of his jaw, the way his eyes betray a hidden depth – all these contribute to a performance that's both terrifying and mesmerizing. He conveys a lifetime of suppressed trauma and buried secrets without resorting to melodramatic displays. His silence speaks volumes, adding layers of complexity to a character already shrouded in mystery.

Exploring the Themes of Identity and Past Trauma

A History of Violence isn't just a thriller; it's a philosophical exploration of identity and the enduring power of the past. Harris's performance anchors this exploration, embodying the central conflict between Tom Stall's constructed identity and the violent legacy he desperately tries to escape. The film questions the stability of selfhood, forcing the audience to confront the unsettling possibility that the people we know might harbor dark and hidden truths. Harris's nuanced portrayal allows this exploration to unfold organically and profoundly, without feeling preachy or didactic.

The Chemistry with Viggo Mortensen: A Masterclass in Tension

The film's success also hinges on the dynamic between Harris and Viggo Mortensen. Their on-screen interactions are electric, charged with unspoken threats and simmering resentment. Mortensen's character, Tom Stall, initially projects an image of peaceful normalcy, directly contrasting with Harris's inherent menace. This contrast heightens the tension and uncertainty, keeping the audience constantly on edge, eagerly awaiting the inevitable confrontation.

The Legacy of a Powerful Performance: Lasting Impact

Ed Harris's contribution to A History of Violence extends beyond the immediate impact of his performance. His portrayal of Bill Riker solidified the film's enduring status as a cinematic masterpiece. The role cemented his reputation as an actor capable of inhabiting complex, morally ambiguous characters with remarkable nuance and depth. It also provided a compelling study of masculinity and the destructive consequences of violence, adding to the film's rich tapestry of themes.

The impact on the genre

Harris's performance significantly impacts the crime thriller genre. His contribution moves beyond the typical portrayal of villains, offering a nuanced perspective on the complexities of human nature. He avoids cliché and stereotype, providing a much more layered and believable antagonist.

Conclusion

Ed Harris's performance in A History of Violence remains a testament to his exceptional talent. His portrayal of Bill Riker is a masterclass in subtle intensity, creating a character both terrifying and undeniably compelling. The film's enduring power is partly due to Harris's ability to convey profound emotional depth through restraint and understated menace. He didn't just act in the film; he shaped its very soul, leaving an indelible mark on both the audience and cinematic history.

FAQs

1. What makes Ed Harris's performance in *A History of Violence* so effective? Harris's effectiveness stems from his ability to convey immense emotional depth through subtlety and restraint. His performance avoids typical villainous tropes, creating a more believable and unsettling character.
2. How does Harris's character contribute to the film's themes? Bill Riker embodies the film's central themes of identity, the weight of the past, and the fragility of normalcy. His presence continually challenges the audience's assumptions about appearances and the nature of violence.
3. What is the significance of the relationship between Harris's and Mortensen's characters? The tense and unpredictable dynamic between Bill Riker and Tom Stall is crucial to the film's suspense and explores the complex themes of family, identity, and the lasting impact of violence.
4. How did Harris's performance influence the perception of the film? Harris's nuanced performance elevated the film beyond a typical crime thriller, enriching its thematic complexity and ensuring its place as a modern classic. His performance solidified the film's critical acclaim and contributed significantly to its lasting impact.
5. Can you compare Harris's role in *A History of Violence* to other roles in his career? While Harris has played numerous powerful roles, Bill Riker stands out for its subtle menace and ambiguity. In other roles, Harris often showcases more outwardly expressive characters, whereas Riker relies heavily on unspoken intensity and a chillingly calm exterior.

ed harris history of violence: *A History of Violence* John Wagner, 2011 Originally published: New York: Paradox Press, 1997.

ed harris history of violence: *David Cronenberg's A History of Violence* Bart Beaty, 2008-01-01 David Cronenberg's *A History of Violence* - the lead title in the new Canadian Cinema series - presents readers with a lively study of some of the filmmaker's favourite themes: violence, concealment, transformation, sex, and guilt.

ed harris history of violence: *On Violence in History* Philip Dwyer, Mark S. Micale, 2020-01-10 Is global violence on the decline? Scholars argue that Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker's proposal that violence has declined dramatically over time is flawed. This highly-publicized argument that human violence across the world has been dramatically abating continues to influence discourse among academics and the general public alike. In this provocative volume, a cast of eminent historians interrogate Pinker's thesis by exposing the realities of violence throughout human history. In doing so, they reveal the history of human violence to be richer, more thought-provoking, and considerably more complicated than Pinker claims. From the introduction: Not all of the scholars included in this volume agree on everything, but the overall verdict is that Pinker's thesis, for all the stimulus it may have given to discussions around violence, is seriously, if not fatally, flawed. The problems that come up time and again are the failure to genuinely engage with historical methodologies; the unquestioning use of dubious sources; the tendency to exaggerate the violence of the past in order to contrast it with the supposed peacefulness of the modern era; the creation of a number of straw men, which Pinker then goes on to debunk; and its extraordinarily Western-centric, not to say Whiggish, view of the world. Complex historical questions, as the essays in this volume clearly demonstrate, cannot be answered with any degree of certainty, and certainly not in a simplistic way. Our goal here is not to offer a final, definitive verdict on Pinker's work; it is, rather, to initiate an ongoing process of assessment that in the future will incorporate as much of the

history profession as possible.

ed harris history of violence: When Giants Fall Michael Panzner, 2009-02-23 In *When Giants Fall*, Panzner makes his case for the turbulent economic changes that will be occurring over the next few years and examines the resulting economic opportunities. According to Panzner, the economic changes will be widespread. Businesses will struggle amid wars, shortages, logistical disruptions, and a breakdown of the established monetary order. Individuals will be forced to rethink livelihoods, lifestyles, living arrangements, and locales. Political structures will be in flux, as local leaders gain influence at the expense of national authorities. For many people, it will be nothing short of a modern Dark Ages, where each day brings fresh anxieties, unfamiliar risks, and a sense of foreboding. However, for those enlightened few who understand what is really going on and what happens next, the chaotic years ahead represent the opportunity of a lifetime - a time when they can realize goals they never thought possible and achieve a level of wealth, security, and inner peace that will leave them head-and-shoulders above everyone else. In this book, Panzner offers cutting-edge insights and strategies that will enable readers to stay well ahead of the game during the uniquely unsettling period ahead.

ed harris history of violence: I Saw That Movie, Too: Selected Film Reviews Brian W. Fairbanks, 2005-11 Brian W. Fairbanks, Entertainment Editor at *Paris Woman Journal* in Paris, France, has a talent for extracting the essence of a given subject and articulating it in a meaningful way. In *I SAW THAT MOVIE, TOO*, he extracts the essence from several hundred films, and articulates some of the most meaningful opinions on the cinema you'll ever read. In the foreword, he also offers a perceptive analysis of the way that movies, more importantly, the way we see movies, has changed from the time he was a young movie buff obsessed by that light in the darkness to the era of the multiplex and the DVD. As one reader says, he has a sophisticated yet effortlessly readable style. Smart, insightful, always honest, but never pretentious, Fairbanks is a life-long film buff who backs up his opinions with a knowledge of both the art and artifice of cinema.

ed harris history of violence: Film After Film J. Hoberman, 2013-11-05 One of the world's most erudite and entertaining film critics on the state of cinema in the post-digital—and post-9/11—age. This witty and allusive book, in the style of classic film theorists/critics like André Bazin and Siegfried Kracauer, includes considerations of global cinema's most important figures and films, from Lars von Trier and Zia Jiangke to *WALL-E*, *Avatar* and *Inception*.

ed harris history of violence: The Philosophy of David Cronenberg Simon Riches, 2012-04-20 Initially regarded as a cult figure with a strong following amongst sci-fi and horror film fans, Canadian filmmaker David Cronenberg emerged as a major and commercially viable film director with mainstream hits such as *A History of Violence* (2005) and *Eastern Promises* (2007). With his unique ability to present imagery that is both disturbing and provocative, Cronenberg creates striking films, noteworthy not just for their cinematic beauty but also for the philosophical questions they raise. *The Philosophy of David Cronenberg* examines Cronenberg's body of work, from his breakthrough *Scanners* (1981) through his most recognizable films such as *The Fly* (1986) and more recent works. Editor Simon Riches and a collaboration of scholars introduce the filmmaker's horrific storylines and psychologically salient themes that reveal his pioneering use of the concept of body horror, as well as his continued aim to satirize the modern misuse of science and technology. *The Philosophy of David Cronenberg* also explores the mutation of self, authenticity and the human mind, as well as language and worldviews. While Cronenberg's films have moved from small-market cult classics to mainstream successes, his intriguing visions of humanity and the self endure.

ed harris history of violence: The Actor Within Rose Eichenbaum, 2012-01-01 In Rose Eichenbaum's third work on the confluence of art making and human expression, she delves into the lives of thirty-five celebrated actors through intimate conversations and photographic portraits. With her probing questions and disarming manner, she captures the essential character of her subjects while shining a light on the art that defines them. The work provides extraordinary insights on the craft of acting with discussions of process, techniques, tools of the trade, and how to advice for

aspiring actors from seasoned veterans. These stars of stage and screen, known for signature roles and critically acclaimed performances, emerge in *The Actor Within* with masks and wardrobe removed. Here, they speak their own lines, tell their own stories, and raise the curtain on what it means to live the actor's life—the challenge of mastering their craft, the drama of big breaks and career woes, the search for meaningful roles, and above all, having the courage to bare their souls before theater audiences or the camera. For the artists featured in this work, acting is more than a profession; it is how they make their way in the world and artfully merge their inner sense of humanness with universal truths. This collection serves as an important inspirational resource for anyone interested in making art, regardless of medium. *The Actor Within* includes interviews with Karl Malden, Ruby Dee, Ed Harris, Piper Laurie, Marcia Gay Harden, William H. Macy, Ellen Burstyn, Joe Mantegna, Debra Winger, Julia Stiles, Elliott Gould, Elijah Wood, Stockard Channing, Bill Pullman, Amanda Plummer, Marlee Matlin, Charles Durning, Marsha Mason, and many others.

ed harris history of violence: The Ultimate Book of Gangster Movies George Anastasia, Glen Macnow, 2011-09-27 The gangster movie is one of the most popular genres in film. From the Italian, Irish, and Russian families in America to similarly sinister groups in Europe, Japan, and beyond, the cinema has never shied away from portraying the evil exploits of these brutal outfits. In this highly entertaining and informative book, two accomplished and apropos authors put the genre in perspective like no other author or documentarian has done before. *The Ultimate Book of Gangster Movies* provides extensive reviews of the Top 100 gangster films of all time, including sidebars like *Reality Check*, *Hit and Miss*, *I Know That Guy*, *Body Count*, and other fun and informative features. Also included are over a dozen stand-alone chapters such as *Sleeper Hits*, *Fugazi Flops*, *Guilty Pleasures*, *Lost Treasures*, *Q&A Interviews* with top actors and directors (including Chazz Palinteri, Michael Madsen, Joe Mantegna, and more), plus over 50 compelling photographs. Foreword by Joe Pistone, the FBI agent and mob infiltrator who wrote the bestselling book and acclaimed movie, *Donnie Brasco*.

ed harris history of violence: The Oliver Stone Encyclopedia James Michael Welsh, Donald M. Whaley, 2013 This reference volume provides an evaluation of Oliver Stone's work as a screenwriter, producer, and director.

ed harris history of violence: *History of Violence* Edouard Louis, 2018-06-14 ** Shortlisted for the 2020 International Dublin Literary Award ** The radical, urgent new novel from the author of *The End of Eddy* - a personal and powerful story of violence. I met Reda on Christmas Eve 2012, at around four in the morning. He approached me in the street, and finally I invited him up to my apartment. He told me the story of his childhood and how his father had come to France, having fled Algeria. We spent the rest of the night together, talking, laughing. At around 6 o'clock, he pulled out a gun and said he was going to kill me. He insulted me, strangled and raped me. The next day, the medical and legal proceedings began. *History of Violence* retraces the story of that night, and looks at immigration, class, racism, desire and the effects of trauma in an attempt to understand a history of violence, its origins, its reasons and its causes. 'It stays with you' *Times* 'A heartbreaking novel' John Boyne

ed harris history of violence: *Riders of the Purple Sage* Zane Grey, 2015-03-20 Read the novel that shaped the genre of Western novels in America. *Riders of the Purple Sage* by Zane Grey stalls the story of a woman's battle to overcome persecution by members of her polygamous Mormon church. This complex novel is an classic tale of romance, adventure and the wild west. This Xist Classics edition has been professionally formatted for e-readers with a linked table of contents. This eBook also contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it. Xist Publishing is a digital-first publisher. Xist Publishing creates books for the touchscreen generation and is dedicated to helping everyone develop a lifetime love of reading, no matter what form it takes

ed harris history of violence: Leonard Maltin's 2013 Movie Guide Leonard Maltin, 2012-09-04 NEW More than 16,000 capsule movie reviews, with more than 300 new entries NEW

More than 13,000 DVD and 13,000 video listings NEW Up-to-date list of mail-order and online sources for buying and renting DVDs and videos NEW Completely updated index of leading performers MORE Official motion picture code ratings from G to NC-17 MORE Old and new theatrical and video releases rated **** to BOMB MORE Exact running times—an invaluable guide for recording and for discovering which movies have been edited MORE Reviews of little-known sleepers, foreign films, rarities, and classics AND Leonard's personal list of fifty notable debut features Summer blockbusters and independent sleepers; masterworks of Alfred Hitchcock, Billy Wilder, and Martin Scorsese; the timeless comedy of the Marx Brothers and Buster Keaton; animated classics from Walt Disney and Pixar; the finest foreign films ever made. This 2013 edition covers the modern era, from 1965 to the present, while including all the great older films you can't afford to miss—and those you can—from box-office smashes to cult classics to forgotten gems to forgettable bombs, listed alphabetically, and complete with all the essential information you could ask for. • Date of release, running time, director, stars, MPAA ratings, color or black and white • Concise summary, capsule review, and four-star-to-BOMB rating system • Precise information on films shot in widescreen format • Symbols for DVD s, videos, and laserdiscs • Completely updated index of leading actors • Up-to-date list of mail-order and online sources for buying and renting DVDs and videos

ed harris history of violence: *Xenophon on Violence* Aggelos Kapellos, 2019-10-21 This volume examines the issue of violence in Xenophon's works, who lived in circumstances of war for many years. All the papers address issues of violence from different aspects. The exclusive focus on this issue is justified, since no previous detailed study exists on the subject. Most of the chapters focus on the Hellenica, because this work records more aspects of violence than the rest of his works. The volume is more concerned with examining violence in practice rather than the theory of violence, and violent practices are more frequently recorded in the Hellenica, which is the main historical work of Xenophon. This volume attempts to provide a comprehensive study of the subject of violence in Xenophon's works and to demonstrate the coherence and consistency of his thought on it. This work aspires to be a contribution to classical scholarship since it attempts to: (1) shed further light on the literary character of Xenophon's oeuvre; (2) offer new interpretation of passages and themes; and (3) put emphasis on passages that scholars have not pointed out and which offer important insights to the thought of Xenophon.

ed harris history of violence: *Kizzi's Book of Names: The Book of David* Kizzi Nkwocha, In the first installment of the acclaimed series Kizzi's Book of Names, author and renowned magazine creator Kizzi Nkwocha delves into the rich history and culture through the extraordinary lives of individuals named David. The Book of David takes readers on an unforgettable journey, exploring the stories of remarkable Davids who have left indelible marks on the world. From biblical times to modern-day trailblazers, each David featured in this book has contributed uniquely to their field—whether in politics, art, science, or social justice. Discover the wisdom of King David, the football genius of David Beckham, the magic of David Copperfield, and the innovative spirit of contemporary Davids shaping our future. Kizzi Nkwocha, the visionary behind Kizzi Magazine and Business Game Changer Magazine, weaves together these diverse narratives with insightful commentary and a deep appreciation for the impact one name can have across different epochs and societies. The Book of David is more than a collection of biographies; it is a celebration of human resilience, creativity, and the interconnectedness of our shared heritage. Join Kizzi Nkwocha in this unique exploration of history, where each name unfolds a new chapter of inspiration and legacy. Whether you are a history enthusiast, a lover of cultural studies, or someone seeking motivation from the past, Kizzi's Book of Names: The Book of David promises to enlighten and inspire. Discover the power of a name. Discover the power of David.

ed harris history of violence: *Projected Art History* Doris Berger, 2014-05-15 Biopics on artists influence the popular perception of artists' lives and work. Projected Art History highlights the narrative structure and images created in the film genre of biopics, in which an artist's life is being dramatized and embodied by an actor. Concentrating on the two case studies, Basquiat (1996)

and Pollock (2000), the book also discusses larger issues at play, such as how postwar American art history is being mediated for mass consumption. This book bridges a gap between art history, film studies and popular culture by investigating how the film genre of biopics adapts written biographies. It identifies the functionality of the biopic genre and explores its implication for a popular art history that is projected on the big screen for a mass audience.

ed harris history of violence: Challenging Genres Paul L. Thomas, 2010-01-01 Challenging Genres: Comic Books and Graphic Novels offers educators, students, parents, and comic book readers and collectors a comprehensive exploration of comics/graphic novels as a challenging genre/medium.

ed harris history of violence: *Selected Nonfiction, 1962-2007* J. G. Ballard, 2023-10-24 J. G. Ballard's collected nonfiction from 1962 to 2007, mapping the cultural obsessions, experiences, and insights of one of the most original minds of his generation. J. G. Ballard was a colossal figure in English literature and an imaginative force of the twentieth century. Alongside seminal novels—from the notorious *Crash* (1973) to the semi-autobiographical *Empire of the Sun* (1984)—Ballard was a sought-after reviewer and commentator, publishing journalism, memoir, and cultural criticism in a variety of forms. The *Selected Nonfiction* of J. G. Ballard collects the most significant short nonfiction of Ballard's fifty-year career, extending the range of the only previous collection of his nonfiction, *A User's Guide to the Millennium* (1996), which selected essays and reviews published between 1962 and 1995. A decade on from Ballard's death in 2009, a new generation of readers needs a new collection. In the period following *A User's Guide*, Ballard's writing addressed 9/11, British politics from New Labour onward, and what he termed "the rise of soft fascism"—a diagnosis that maintains its relevance amid a shift toward right populism in European and US politics. Beautifully edited by Ballard scholar and novelist Mark Blacklock, this volume includes Ballard's editorials and manifestos; commentaries on his own work; commentaries on the work of others; reviews; and more. Above all, it makes the case for the currency of Ballard's work at a contemporary juncture at which so many of his diagnoses concerning the media and politics have become apparent.

ed harris history of violence: *Remaking History* Jerome De Groot, 2015-07-30 *Remaking History* considers the ways that historical fictions of all kinds enable a complex engagement with the past. Popular historical texts including films, television and novels, along with cultural phenomena such as superheroes and vampires, broker relationships to 'history', while also enabling audiences to understand the ways in which the past is written, structured and ordered. Jerome de Groot uses examples from contemporary popular culture to show the relationship between fiction and history in two key ways. Firstly, the texts pedagogically contribute to the historical imaginary and secondly they allow reflection upon how the past is constructed as 'history'. In doing so, they provide an accessible and engaging means to critique, conceptualize and reject the processes of historical representation. The book looks at the use of the past in fiction from sources including *Mad Men*, *Downton Abbey* and Howard Brenton's *Anne Boleyn*, along with the work of directors such as Terence Malick, Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese, to show that fictional representations enable a comprehension of the fundamental strangeness of the past and the ways in which this foreign, exotic other is constructed. Drawing from popular films, novels and TV series of recent years, and engaging with key thinkers from Marx to Derrida, *Remaking History* is a must for all students interested in the meaning that history has for fiction, and vice versa.

ed harris history of violence: *Roger Ebert's Movie Yearbook 2009* Roger Ebert, 2009-06-15 Nobody has been more important in telling Americans why we should love film than Roger Ebert. --Michael Shamberg, Editor and Publisher Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert presents more than 650 full-length critical movie reviews, along with interviews, essays, tributes, film festival reports, and Q and As from Questions for the Movie Answer Man. *Roger Ebert's Movie Yearbook 2009* collects more than two years' worth of his engaging film critiques. From *Bee Movie* to *Darfur* Now to *No Country for Old Men*, and from *Juno* to *Persepolis* to *La Vie en Rose*, *Roger Ebert's Movie Yearbook 2009* includes every review Ebert has written from January 2006 to June 2008. Also

included in the Yearbook, which boasts 65 percent new content, are: * Interviews with newsmakers, such as Juno director Jason Reitman and Jerry Seinfeld, a touching tribute to Deborah Kerr, and an emotional letter of appreciation to Werner Herzog. * Essays on film issues, and tributes to actors and directors who died during the year. * Daily film festival reports from Cannes, Toronto, Sundance, and Telluride. * All-new questions and answers from his Questions for the Movie Answer Man columns.

ed harris history of violence: *Bigger Than Blockbusters* James Roman, 2009-02-17 Whether it's the hum drum existence of Marion Crane and her illicit love affair, the psychotic antics of Norman Bates, the sudden irrational migration of birds, a crop duster swooping down on Roger Thornhill in the middle of nowhere, or Vincent Vega and Mia Wallace's unforgettable dance at Jack Rabbit Slim's - they are all cinematic moments that forever changed the psyche and viewing experience of American audiences. *Bigger Than Blockbusters: Movies That Defined America* tells the stories behind the most significant and influential films in American culture, movies that have had a profound influence on the literary, cinematic and popular culture of our time. Arranged chronologically, the volume gives readers an opportunity to place the films within the context of the social and cultural historic dynamic of the time, making this an ideal source for student papers and reports. Each entry includes the filmmaker, actors, release information, a synopsis of the film, critics' reviews, awards, current availability, and then background on the making of the film in an artistic, economic, and technological context. Spanning all genres, including horror and drama, adventure, comedy, musicals, science fiction, and more, this volume is loaded with enough trivia and factoids to satisfy even the most die-hard movie buff. Also included are other Greatest Films compilations from the National Society of Film Critics and noteworthy sources for comparative purposes. Guaranteed to inspire forays into film favorites as well as some very lively debate, this resource is essential reading for film lovers and students alike.

ed harris history of violence: *Miracle in Birmingham* W. Edward Harris, 2004

ed harris history of violence: *The Essence of Film Noir* Diana Royer, 2022-06-03 American classic films noir, beginning with 1941's *The Maltese Falcon* and ending with 1950's *Sunset Boulevard*, and the neo-noir films made from the 1970s onward, share certain thematic aspects, stylistic qualities, and cultural contexts. Their concern with politics, their depiction of con artists, and the way their characters are shaped by America's puritanical religious roots show that these films are examples of a unique American genre, even when the films' directors are German emigres with artistic roots in European Expressionism. The films' psychological depth is revealed stylistically through complex narratives, with select directors generating visual poetry as they deal with sex, violence and betrayal. Some films are based on popular novels inspired by true crime cases. A unique approach to film noir scholarship, this book discusses the genre's thematic aspects, cultural contexts and stylistic qualities. For those films based upon novels, in-depth analysis of the fiction is provided alongside the film version, resulting in a fuller, more thorough understanding of the genre.

ed harris history of violence: *The New Biographical Dictionary of Film* David Thomson, 2014-05-06 For almost thirty years, David Thomson's *Biographical Dictionary of Film* has been not merely "the finest reference book ever written about movies" (Graham Fuller, Interview), not merely the "desert island book" of art critic David Sylvester, not merely "a great, crazy masterpiece" (Geoff Dyer, *The Guardian*), but also "fiendishly seductive" (Greil Marcus, *Rolling Stone*). This new edition updates the older entries and adds 30 new ones: Darren Aronofsky, Emmanuelle Beart, Jerry Bruckheimer, Larry Clark, Jennifer Connelly, Chris Cooper, Sofia Coppola, Alfonso Cuarón, Richard Curtis, Sir Richard Eyre, Sir Michael Gambon, Christopher Guest, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Spike Jonze, Wong Kar-Wai, Laura Linney, Tobey Maguire, Michael Moore, Samantha Morton, Mike Myers, Christopher Nolan, Dennis Price, Adam Sandler, Kevin Smith, Kiefer Sutherland, Charlize Theron, Larry Wachowski and Andy Wachowski, Lew Wasserman, Naomi Watts, and Ray Winstone. In all, the book includes more than 1300 entries, some of them just a pungent paragraph, some of them several thousand words long. In addition to the new "musts," Thomson has added key figures from film history-lively anatomies of Graham Greene, Eddie Cantor, Pauline Kael, Abbott and Costello, Noël

Coward, Hoagy Carmichael, Dorothy Gish, Rin Tin Tin, and more. Here is a great, rare book, one 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. Time Out named it one of the ten best books of the 1990s. Gavin Lambert recognized it as "a work of imagination in its own right." Now better than ever—a masterwork by the man playwright David Hare called "the most stimulating and thoughtful film critic now writing."

ed harris history of violence: The Philosophy of David Cronenberg Simon Riches, 2012-05-23 Initially regarded as a cult figure with a strong following amongst sci-fi and horror film fans, Canadian filmmaker David Cronenberg emerged as a major and commercially viable film director with mainstream hits such as *A History of Violence* (2005) and *Eastern Promises* (2007). With his unique ability to present imagery that is both disturbing and provocative, Cronenberg creates striking films, noteworthy not just for their cinematic beauty but also for the philosophical questions they raise. *The Philosophy of David Cronenberg* examines Cronenberg's body of work, from his breakthrough *Scanners* (1981) through his most recognizable films such as *The Fly* (1986) and more recent works. Editor Simon Riches and a collaboration of scholars introduce the filmmaker's horrific storylines and psychologically salient themes that reveal his pioneering use of the concept of body horror, as well as his continued aim to satirize the modern misuse of science and technology. *The Philosophy of David Cronenberg* also explores the mutation of self, authenticity and the human mind, as well as language and worldviews. While Cronenberg's films have moved from small-market cult classics to mainstream successes, his intriguing visions of humanity and the self endure.

ed harris history of violence: The Comic Book Film Adaptation Liam Burke, 2015-03-31 In the summer of 2000 *X-Men* surpassed all box office expectations and ushered in an era of unprecedented production of comic book film adaptations. This trend, now in its second decade, has blossomed into Hollywood's leading genre. From superheroes to Spartan warriors, *The Comic Book Film Adaptation* offers the first dedicated study to examine how comic books moved from the fringes of popular culture to the center of mainstream film production. Through in-depth analysis, industry interviews, and audience research, this book charts the cause-and-effect of this influential trend. It considers the cultural traumas, business demands, and digital possibilities that Hollywood faced at the dawn of the twenty-first century. The industry managed to meet these challenges by exploiting comics and their existing audiences. However, studios were caught off-guard when these comic book fans, empowered by digital media, began to influence the success of these adaptations. Nonetheless, filmmakers soon developed strategies to take advantage of this intense fanbase, while codifying the trend into a more lucrative genre, the comic book movie, which appealed to an even wider audience. Central to this vibrant trend is a comic aesthetic in which filmmakers utilize digital filmmaking technologies to engage with the language and conventions of comics like never before. *The Comic Book Film Adaptation* explores this unique moment in which cinema is stimulated, challenged, and enriched by the once-dismissed medium of comics.

ed harris history of violence: Is Harpo Free? Matthew Cipa, 2024-04-01 *Is Harpo Free?* is a lively appreciation of film and television's ability to artistically explore concepts typical of philosophical metaphysics, such as free will, causality, and personal identity. Rather than using films and television programs as vehicles for philosophical arguments, the book instead celebrates the artistic ways in which they give life to various metaphysical concepts and how the artistic expression of these concepts and ideas helps us understand ourselves, the world, and our place within it. Through close analysis of a varied selection of works and their use of narrative, form, and style, *Is Harpo Free?* exemplifies a novel approach to appreciating the philosophical substance of films and television programs. Films and television programs discussed include *A Night at the Opera*; *Run, Lola, Run*; *Shane*; *Harvey*; *Three Colours: Blue*; *The Americans*; *Dark*; and *Fargo*.

ed harris history of violence: Staying Scared - The Films of a Horror Movie Legend Brian Dailey, 2023-12-20 *Staying Scared - The Films of a Horror Movie Legend* delves into the chilling world of George A. Romero, a titan of terror cinema. This comprehensive exploration takes readers

on a thrilling journey through Romero's iconic horror films, from the groundbreaking Night of the Living Dead to the apocalyptic Dawn of the Dead and beyond. The book offers an in-depth analysis of Romero's unique approach to filmmaking, his remarkable ability to transform low-budget productions into timeless horror classics, and his profound influence on the genre. It examines the socio-political themes that underpin his films, revealing how Romero used horror as a lens to critique society and expose its deepest fears.

ed harris history of violence: Fool for Love Sam Shepard, 1984 The sad lament of Pecos Bill on the eve of killing his wife: Cast: gender - mixed; number - 1 male, 1 female; size - small; ages - adults.

ed harris history of violence: Warfare and Belligerence Pierre Purseigle, 2005-06-01 This collection of essays suggests some of the ways in which an interdisciplinary perspective may contribute to our understanding of the First World War. Its contributors examine the relationship between the character of the war and the nature of belligerent societies, and present original research on the comparative history of the Great War.

ed harris history of violence: Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts John Langdon Sibley, 1885 Vol. 1 includes an appendix, containing an abstract of the steward's accounts, and notices of non-graduates, from 1649-50 to 1659.

ed harris history of violence: The Publishers Weekly , 2005

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