



Hitchcock's America

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Hitchcock's America From Oxford University Press

Alfred Hitchcock's American films are not only among the most admired works in world cinema, they also offer some of our most acute responses to the changing shape of American society in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. The authors of this anthology show how famous films such as *Strangers on a Train*, *Vertigo*, *North by Northwest*, and *Rear Window*, along with more obscure ones such as *Rope*, *The Wrong Man*, and *Family Plot*, register the ideologies and insurgencies, the normative assumptions and the cultural alternatives, that shaped these tumultuous decades. They argue that, just as these films occupy a visual landscape defined by the grand monuments of American civic life--Mt. Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, the United Nations--they are also marked by their preoccupation with the social mores and private practices of mid-century America. Not only are big-city and suburban life the explicit subjects of films like *Rear Window* and *Shadow of a Doubt*, so are the forms of experience that emerge within these social spaces, whether the urban voyeurism examined by the former or the intertwining of banality and violence depicted in the latter. Indeed, just about every form of American life that was achieving social power at this time--the national security state; the science and art of psychoanalysis; the privileging of the free-wheeling, improvisatory self; the postwar codification and fissuring of gender roles; road-culture and its ancillary creation, the motel--is given detailed, critical, and mordant examination in Hitchcock's films. The Hitchcock who emerges is not merely the inspired technician and psychological excavator that critics of the past two generations have justly hailed; he is also a cultural critic of remarkable insight and undeniable prescience.

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Hitchcock's America From Oxford University Press Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2056867 in Books
- Published on: 1999-02-25
- Released on: 1999-02-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.00" h x .70" w x 9.10" l, .72 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In this 100th-anniversary year of Alfred Hitchcock's birth, the director's work has inspired several movie remakes and a whole new crop of admirers. These two tributes to Hitchcock's art offer something new to fans. *Hitchcock's America* focuses on Hitchcock as cultural critic, with essays from film and literature scholars. The pieces are randomly arranged and comment on family values, gender roles, and American ideals as they are reflected in a wide array of Hitchcock's American films. While most followers hail the psychological power of his cinema, this anthology successfully shows his ability to record the changing expectations of American society in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. The stark contrasts between big city and small town, sexuality and purity, hidden desires and social mores are explored as Hitchcock filmed them. Auiler (*Vertigo: The Making of a Hitchcock Classic*, LJ 5/1/98) returns with an ambitious look at the creative process of filmmaking, from the director's early German films through the golden decade of his work in the Fifties and Sixties. Using Hitchcock's own copious notes, plus copies of studio memos, hand-marked scripts, and plenty of production photos and stills, he re-creates the step-by-step production of a movie. Chapters on the screenplay, visual set-up, production, post-production editing, and unfinished projects provide fascinating insight into how movies were made, Hitchcock-style. Those with no knowledge of the "behind-the-scenes" activity of cinema will be fascinated by this detailed accounting. Auiler's book is for general audiences, while *Hitchcock's America* would be a good purchase for film collections in academic libraries. AKelli N. Perkins, Herrick Dist. Lib., Holland, MI
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Review

"...successfully shows [Hitchcock's] ability to record the changing expectations of American society in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s....Would be a good purchase for film collections in academic libraries."--*Library Journal*

About the Author

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frances Sitz:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is in the former life are hard to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All

those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Hitchcock's America as your daily resource information.

Carl Johnson:

The reason? Because this Hitchcock's America is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such awesome way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Jacqueline Carter:

In this particular era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you are related is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. Among the books in the top record in your reading list is definitely Hitchcock's America. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upward and review this book you can get many advantages.

Tommy Bowles:

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