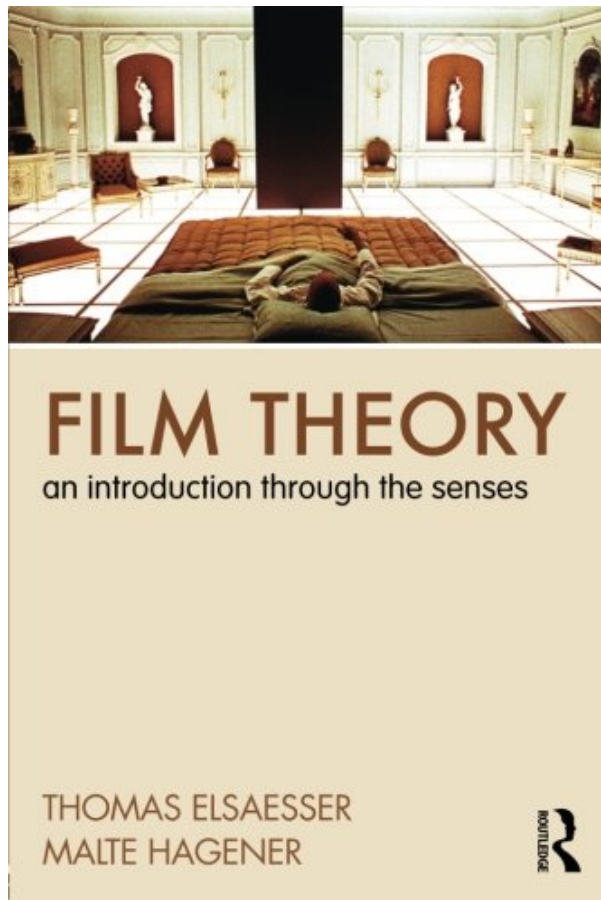


FILM THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION THROUGH THE SENSES BY THOMAS ELSAESSER, MALTE HAGENER



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FILM THEORY

an introduction through the senses

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Review

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About the Author

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What is the relationship between cinema and spectator? That is the central question for film theory, and renowned film scholars Thomas Elsaesser and Malte Hagener use this question to guide students through all of the major film theories – from the classical period to today – in this insightful, engaging book. Every kind of cinema (and film theory) imagines an ideal spectator, and then imagines a certain relationship between the mind and body of that spectator and the screen. Using seven distinctive configurations of spectator and screen that move progressively from ‘exterior’ to ‘interior’ relationships, the authors retrace the most important stages of film theory from 1945 to the present, from neo-realist and modernist theories to psychoanalytic, ‘apparatus’, phenomenological and cognitivist theories.

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it's more about "reception" than it is about "film"

By Harry Peters

This book might be described as a neo-Deleuzian examination of film and visual media. It's a good book, using metaphors to look at film, such as "film as a window" or "cinema as brain" and this seems a Deleuzian way of going about it. It's mostly a phenomenological approach, informed by cognitive approaches a little bit on the side. It deals mostly with the reception of film, rather than the medium and production aspects, so in a sense, it doesn't get far beyond "appreciation" but it does open one's eyes to new ways of thinking and understanding the cinematic experience. It really should have been called "cinema theory" because it's less about "film" and more about "visual culture" and "cinema" as an experiential, spectatorial event.

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By Carrie E Crockett

I can't really rate this book down because of it's content. It was required for class and I found it excessively boring. If you are an abstract film theory fanatic, this would be your book. To me though, the author tried too hard to sound intelligent and this makes the read far more tedious than it needed to be.

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