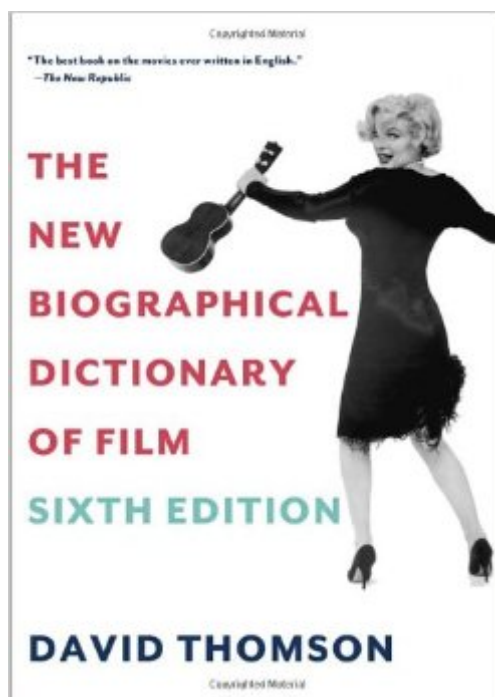


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The New Biographical Dictionary Of Film: Sixth Edition



Synopsis

With more than 100 new entries, from Amy Adams, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Cary Joji Fukunaga to Joaquin Phoenix, Mia Wasikowska, and Robin Wright, and completely updated, here from David Thomson "the greatest living writer on the movies" (John Banville, *New Statesman*); "Our most argumentative and trustworthy historian of the screen" (Michael Ondaatje) is the latest edition of *The New Biographical Dictionary of Film*, which topped *Sight & Sound*'s poll of international critics and writers as THE BEST FILM BOOK EVER WRITTEN.^{3/7}

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Customer Reviews

The Biographical Dictionary of Film has always placed in film journal polls among the Top Five film books ever written. His entries are wonderfully concise and precise, and often extremely perceptive. Like John Simon before him, his entries can sometimes be mean-spirited towards some actresses he is not fond of (he finds Julie Christie to be "lantern-jawed...") On the other hand, he confesses his crush on Angie Dickinson. Whether you agree or disagree with him, however, you will refer to this book often just to see how much his opinion of directors and actors differs from your own and enjoy his (for the most part) pithy and witty observations. The one failing on his updated editions (this is now the sixth) is that he generally does not add any NEW commentary to actors, actresses and directors currently working once he has written his original entry in a prior edition. He merely updates his original entry by listing the more recent titles and dates of films with at most one or two words of commentary every now and then. Thus, I have to deduct one star for recent laziness. I would definitely recommend another of his volumes... "HAVE YOU SEEN..." where he discusses

his 1000 favorite films of all time. I found "Have You Seen..." to be even more enjoyable than this volume.

I love reference books. They are the best for nightstand and bathroom reading. A good, solid reference on a subject you are interested in is a wise investment in time and money. This new edition of a long-time classic is, as the past editions have been, a sheer delight. Like the old potato chip commercial put it, you can't eat just one entry. You will find yourself staying up later than you intended (or taking a lot longer to get ready for the day, etc.), but pfft. Who cares when a writer like Thomson is keeping you reading? He has not lost any of his edge, strong opinion, or ability to make you laugh out loud. If you agree with his take, you nod your head at his wit and incisive writing. If you disagree with him, all the better. It's still enlightening and more often than not, a hoot. Not just everybody is listed here, of course, but then, not just everybody deserves to be. Turn on the side lamp, adjust the pillow, and expect to be tired in the morning.

A terrific book, though not fully updated. Regardless, and despite largely subjective and some might think often wrong-headed commentaries, this is a splendid book to own. It is great fun to look up someone, find him or her there, and enjoy the thoughts Thomson shares. Agree or disagree.

Jennifer Lawrence? Well, she 'has great skin tone'; as for The Hunger Games*, it's 'a franchise that could outlast civilization. Perhaps it has already.' Barbra Streisand? 'Only in her early seventies [as is Thomson].. as volatile and brooding as the San Andreas fault..' It's the 'only' that slays me. What I want to know is, if this is 'the best book on the movies ever written IN ENGLISH' (cover quote), in what language is the best movie book EVER? Thomson is of course as good as it gets, an essential component of any library personal or private. In its newest avatar his magnum opus manages to remain surprisingly manageable in size. Who he leaves out - Dame Joan Collins, Sir Norman Wisdom (big in Albania) - is as fascinating as what he thinks of those who get in. It is gloriously addictive.* The Hunger Games, I read on December 4 in my local (London) paper, 'flatters the self-centredness of the teenage girl with appalling expertise' Edit 17 June 2015 Can we see Roy Andersson in the next edition, please? The New Statesman's Ryan Gilbey finds his new movie, the serio-comic A Pigeon Sat., less profound than its two predecessors. What does David think?

A must have for anyone interested in the movies, from the casual fan to the film scholar. This is the third of the six editions that I own.

Thomson is always interesting

Very entertaining. Goes in depth into review of actors, usually concentrating on one or two or their most influential films.

My husband loves any type of film and all the info on each one and was very happy that he got this book for father's day

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