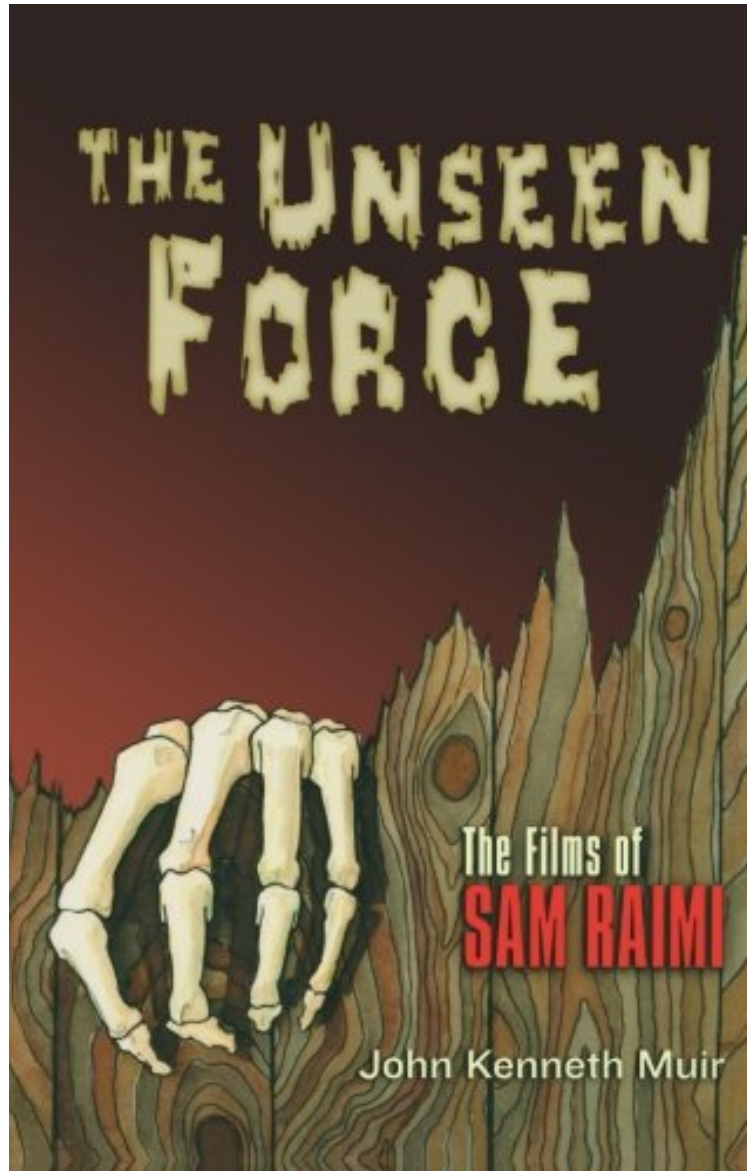


The Unseen Force : The Films of Sam Raimi

John Kenneth Muir

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#2464335 in Books John Kenneth Muir 2004-05 2004-05-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .83 x 5.751, 1.29 #File Name: 1557836078368 pagesThe Unseen Force The Films of Sam Raimi | File size: 43.Mb

John Kenneth Muir : The Unseen Force : The Films of Sam Raimi before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unseen Force : The Films of Sam Raimi:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Raimi Book!By HorrorGirlI love books like these, the ones where it gives readers the chance to go behind the scenes of some great films. Some call books like these companions, but whatever the term, I love them! It has plenty of photos which makes any Sam Raimi fan happy! It goes all the way

up until Spider-Man 2. So it's not horribly current, but there's plenty of Evil Dead! I give the Unseen Force 5/5 stars, it was exactly what I hoped it would be! - Horror0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Warren F. Disbrow Jr. Good. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great look at the production and reception of Raimi's films up to the first Spider-Man By Joseph M. Reninger Sam Raimi made his name in movies when he made The Evil Dead, a small budget, independently made horror film that became a seminal work in 1980s horror. His career moved in fits and starts. He is visually inventive with a style that is distinctive. His genius for visual storytelling can be seen in the Evil Dead sequels, his early and original superhero movie Darkman, and the oddball western The Quick and the Dead. Having burned out a bit on style, he shifted gears to more character-driven films like A Simple Plan and The Gift, where the directing doesn't overwhelm the story. He had a return to visual creativity when he was selected to direct the 2002 Spider-Man, a massive box office hit that was well-regarded critically for a superhero film. Author John Muir gives a comprehensive review of Raimi's films, with plenty of original interviews from cast, producers, and crew members to fill in the details on the films. Muir starts by discussing Raimi's early life and work with Super 8 cameras, including college projects that gave him an early experience of audience feedback and what works (and doesn't) for creating an entertaining movie. Each subsequent chapter focuses on one movie and goes fairly in-depth about the production, the critical reception, and the author's own thoughts about the film. The book (published in 2004) ends with a preview of Spider-Man 2 (which came out in 2004). Oddly, he has no interviews with Raimi himself, relying on previously published interviews in magazines and trade papers. Other major figures like Raimi's usual co-producer Rob Tappert or go-to actor Bruce Campbell are also only present through secondary sources. The book is still rich with detail on the films. Muir expresses his love for Raimi's character quite thoroughly. Raimi is famous for wearing a jacket and tie as a director, taking the job very seriously as did great directors before him like Alfred Hitchcock. Raimi is also well-liked as a director, able to get the shots and performances he wants through gentleness and enthusiasm rather than dominance and anger. He's also open to good ideas from others that enhance the storytelling. Actors have sought him out for their projects and generally are very positive about working with him. Muir also loves the films themselves, sometimes bending over backwards to praise even the lesser films. His critical analysis is on the mark with movies like Evil Dead II or A Simple Plan, but he struggles to find praiseworthy aspects to Crimewave or The Quick and the Dead, falling back on academic distinctions to create positive opinions about every movie. The book is a fascinating look at Raimi as a movie director, giving insight into his character, his creativity, and his struggles with low budgets and with Hollywood nonsense. It is occasionally uncritically positive about the movies, making it a little less convincing overall. Still, for fans of Raimi's work, it is a great read. Recommended.

(Applause Books). Following his highly successful *An Askew View: The Films of Kevin Smith* (Applause), John Kenneth Muir now turns to the life and work of legendary cult-film director Sam Raimi. Raimi exploded on the movie scene in 1982, when he was 23 years old, with the audacious, independently produced horror film *The Evil Dead*. Re-igniting the horror genre to such a degree that Wes Craven credited Raimi on-screen in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, Raimi went on to direct two *Evil Dead* sequels, his own comic-book superhero, *Darkman*, and an over-the-top, post-modern western, *The Quick and the Dead*. Raimi's influence on other filmmakers continues to be enormous from the "shaky cam" shots of the Coen brothers to the early oeuvre of *Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson, both of whom have been termed the "direct progeny" of Raimi's works. In 2002, Raimi's *Spider-Man* had the biggest opening weekend in history, earning more than \$114 million at the box office. *The Unseen Force* also features a sneak peek at the much anticipated *Spider-Man 2*. Included are 30 first-person accounts and interviews from a number of eclectic sources from the cinematographers who shot Raimi's early films to the producers, screenwriters, actors, special effects magicians and composers who collaborated to make his films the stuff of legend, earn mainstream success, and still be the focus of obsessive cult followings.

From Publishers Weekly Muir, author of *Horror Films of the 1970s*, admires and enjoys Raimi's highly praised work. Examining Raimi's oeuvre, from the cult classic low-budget horror film *The Evil Dead* (1981) through the mega-hit *Spider-Man* (2002), he offers lively, behind-the-scenes accounts via interviews with many of Raimi's collaborators. For example, he divulges the trade secrets of Tom Sullivan, the man responsible for the special effects in *The Evil Dead*, which illustrate the resourcefulness Raimi inspires in his colleagues. Although famous for violent and unnerving films like 1990's *Darkman*, the director exudes a calm presence, noted for dressing in a suit and tie to indicate his respect for the craft of filmmaking. Even while exploring new terrain, such as the neo-Western *The Quick and the Dead* (1995) or 1999's baseball/romance film *For Love of the Game*, Raimi maintains a strong visual and emotional landscape. In *Spider-Man*, Muir says, he found the perfect vehicle to marry his love of comic books, his visual talents and his sensitivity, producing the most successful film of the genre. Muir shows how signature flourishes (e.g., his "Point of View subjective shot") pop up in Raimi's fledgling works yet still thrill when used in *Spider-Man*. If there is a downside to the nonconformist director, Muir has yet to find it. Bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author John Kenneth Muir is the author of 13 books,

including the acclaimed Encyclopedia of Superheroes on Film and Television, and Horror Films of the 1970s.