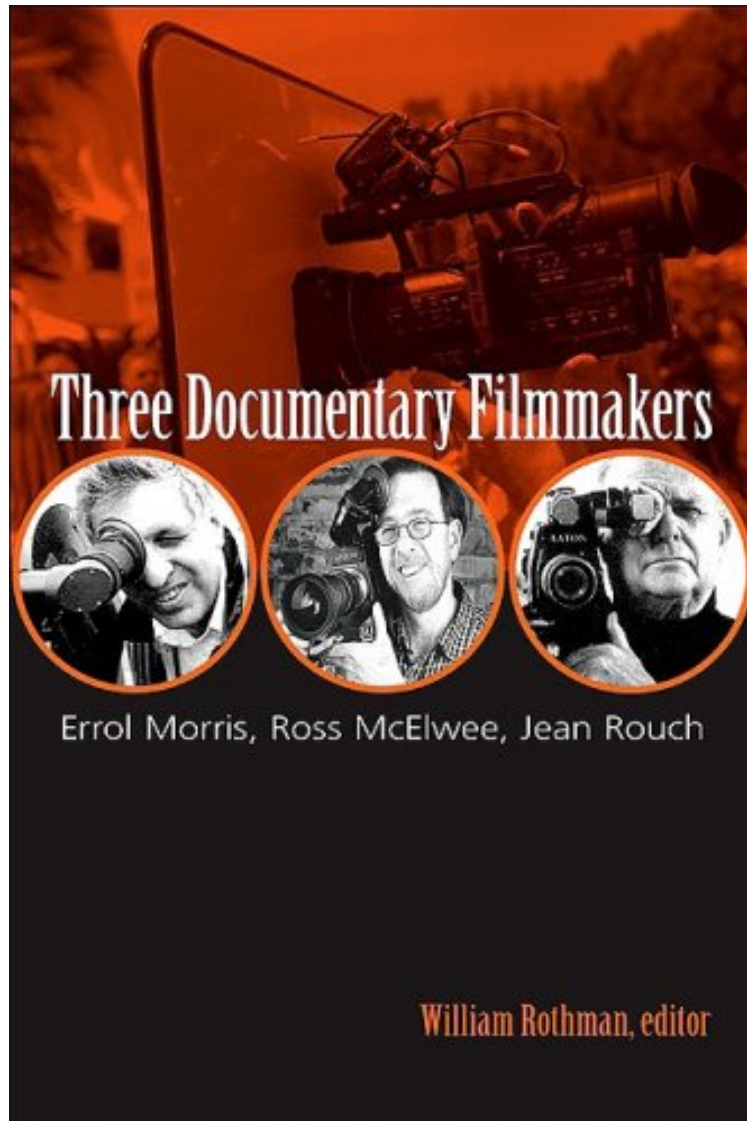


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## Three Documentary Filmmakers: Errol Morris, Ross McElwee, Jean Rouch (Suny Series, Horizons of Cinema)

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Film study has tended to treat documentary as a marginal form, but as the essays in *Three Documentary Filmmakers* demonstrate, the films of Jean Rouch, Ross McElwee, and Errol Morris call for, and reward, the sort of criticism expected of serious works in any medium. However, critical methods that illuminate what makes *Citizen Kane* a great film are not adequate for expressing what it is about Rouch's *The Funeral at Bongo: The Old Annai*, McElwee's *Time Indefinite*, and Morris's *The Fog of War* that makes them--each in its own way--great films as well. Although these filmmakers differ strikingly from one another, their films are deeply philosophical and personal, and explore the paradoxical relationships between fantasy and reality, self and world, fiction and documentary, dreams and film, filming and living. It is a challenge to find terms of criticism capable of illuminating such works, and the essays in this book rise to that challenge.

Rothman's contributors all bring fruitful perspectives to bear on their subjects. The pieces vary widely in focus and approach, but the collection is solid and provocative. CHOICE "The force and virtue of this book can be found in the interstices between and among three vastly different auteurs, styles, subjects, and cinematic dispositions. It will cause readers to think of documentary along new and unforeseen paths of inquiry. Tom Conley, author of *Cartographic Cinema*" "Rothman's contributors ... all bring fruitful perspectives to bear on their subjects. The pieces vary widely in focus and approach, but the collection is solid and provocative." -- CHOICE "The force and virtue of this book can be found in the interstices between and among three vastly different auteurs, styles, subjects, and cinematic dispositions. It will cause readers to think of documentary along new and unforeseen paths of inquiry." -- Tom Conley, author of *Cartographic Cinema*From the Back CoverFilm study has tended to treat documentary as a marginal form, but as the essays in *Three Documentary Filmmakers* demonstrate, the films of Jean Rouch, Ross McElwee, and Errol Morris call for, and reward, the sort of criticism expected of serious works in any medium. However, critical methods that illuminate what makes *Citizen Kane* a great film are not adequate for expressing what it is about Rouch's *The Funeral at Bongo: The Old Anna*, McElwee's *Time Indefinite*, and Morris's *The Fog of War* that makes them--each in its own way--great films as well. Although these filmmakers differ strikingly from one another, their films are deeply philosophical and personal, and explore the paradoxical relationships between fantasy and reality, self and world, fiction and documentary, dreams and film, filming and living. It is a challenge to find terms of criticism capable of illuminating such works, and the essays in this book rise to that challenge. "The force and virtue of this book can be found in the interstices between and among three vastly different auteurs, styles, subjects, and cinematic dispositions. It will cause readers to think of documentary along new and unforeseen paths of inquiry." -- Tom Conley, author of *Cartographic Cinema*About the AuthorWilliam Rothman is Professor of Motion Pictures and Director of the Graduate Program in Film Studies at the University of Miami. He is the author of several books, including *Documentary Film Classics* and *Hitchcock: The Murderous Gaze*, and also the editor of several volumes, including *Cavell on Film*, also published by SUNY Press, and *Jean Rouch: A Celebration of Life and Film*.