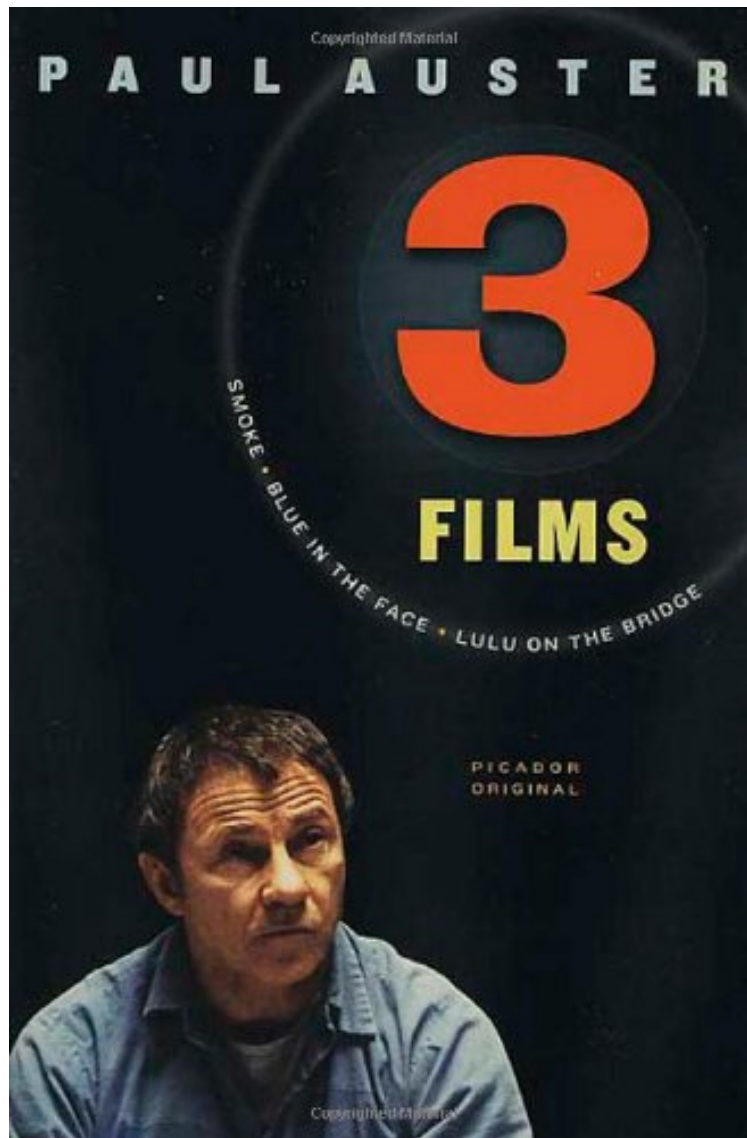


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Three Films: Smoke, Blue in the Face, and Lulu on the Bridge

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From *The New York Trilogy* to *The Book of Illusions*, Paul Auster's novels have earned him a reputation as "one of America's most spectacularly inventive writers." Here, published together for the first time, are the screenplays of the three films he made in the 1990s. *Smoke* (starring Harvey Keitel, William Hurt, Forest Whitaker, and Stockard Channing) tells the story of a novelist, a cigar store manager, and a black teenager who unexpectedly cross paths and end up changing each other's lives in indelible ways. Set in contemporary Brooklyn, *Smoke* directly inspired *Blue in the Face*, a largely improvised comedy shot in a total of six days. A film unlike any other it stars Harvey Keitel, with featured performances by Roseanne, Lily Tomlin, Lou Reed, and Michael J. Fox. *Lulu on the Bridge* (Auster's solo directorial debut, again starring Harvey Keitel, with Mira Sorvino, Willem Dafoe, and Vanessa Redgrave) opens with the accidental shooting of jazz musician Izzy Maurer during a performance in a New York club. Izzy is then led on a journey into the strange and sometimes frightening labyrinth of his soul. Both thriller and fairy tale, *Lulu on the Bridge* is above all a story about the redemptive powers of love.

About the Author Paul Auster's eleventh novel *Oracle Night*, was published by Henry Holt in December 2003. His novel *The Book of Illusions* was an international bestseller and is also available from Picador together with *Timbuktu*, *Hand to Mouth*, and *I Thought My Father Was God*, the NPR National Story Project anthology.