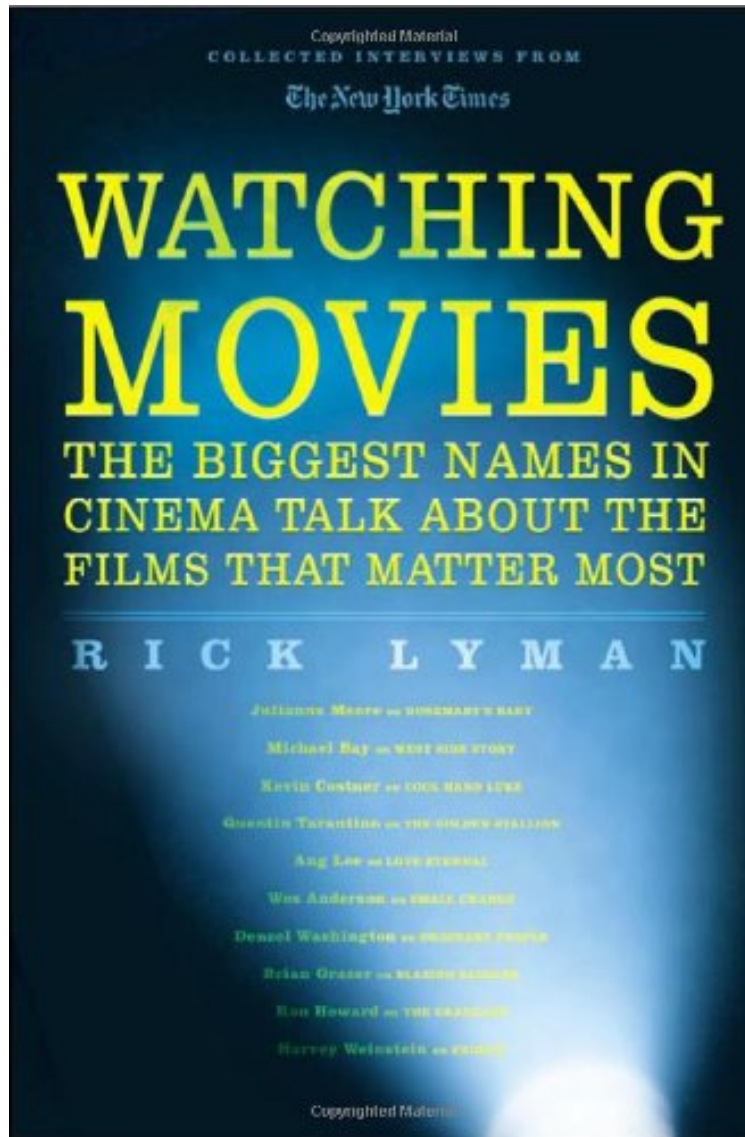


# Watching Movies: The Biggest Names in Cinema Talk about the Films that Matter Most

Rick Lyman

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**Rick Lyman : Watching Movies: The Biggest Names in Cinema Talk about the Films that Matter Most** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Watching Movies: The Biggest Names in Cinema Talk about the Films that Matter Most:

3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Watching Movies by Rick LymanBy Dr. Joseph S. MarescaThis is an excellent work for people interested in the majormovie productions. The book is written from the perspective of a

consortia of movie directors associated with various films. i.e. *The Graduate*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Blazing Saddles* and a host of other important films. *The Graduate* is described as a groundbreaking film. The character of Dustin Hoffman is portrayed as the classic "clean cut kid of the 60s". The work is helpful in providing needed perspective from the professional directors who authored these types of films. This presentation would be helpful for students studying the art of film production in college or graduate school. Students seeking to produce their own film would find this work helpful.

An inside look at how some of the hottest figures in the film industry view their craft. In this unique collection, New York Times film critic Rick Lyman sits down with notable directors, actors, screenwriters, cinematographers, and other film industry professionals to watch and discuss a movie that each person considers seminal or influential on his or her career. From Steven Soderbergh on how *All the President's Men* influenced *Erin Brockovich* and *Traffic*, to Woody Allen's, John Travolta's, Sissy Spacek's, and Kevin Smith's favorite movies, each interviewee's character is revealed in the resulting essays, which deepen our appreciation of landmark films, and give us extraordinary insight into the process of filmmaking. Lyman enhances every essay with a brief biography, career history, and complete filmography of each of the subjects, which puts them in a historical and creative context. Drawn from the enormously popular series in *The New York Times*, *Watching Movies* will fascinate film students and curious moviegoers alike.

From Booklist. For a series in the *New York Times*, Lyman watched and discussed movies that each of 21 directors, actors, screenwriters, and other film professionals considers influential on him- or herself. A subject's choice is often as revealing as the discussion. Action director Michael Bay (*Pearl Harbor*) selects *West Side Story*, and--surprise-- Woody Allen, the ultimate urbanite, picks the classic Western, *Shane*. Other participants include directors Ron Howard (who chose *The Graduate*) and Steven Soderbergh (*All the President's Men*); actors John Travolta (*Yankee Doodle Dandy*) and Sissy Spacek (*To Kill a Mockingbird*); and producers Brian Grazer (*Blazing Saddles*) and Harvey Weinstein (*Exodus*). One plaint surfaces over and over as the enduring classics are pondered: under Hollywood's current regime, which is only interested in mass-appeal, commercial blockbusters, few of the films chosen could be made today. This inside look at the filmmaking process gives movie buffs the opportunity to see movie luminaries being movie buffs themselves. Gordon Flagg. Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. About the Author. Rick Lyman, who reports on the film industry for *The New York Times*, has been writing the "Watching the Movies With" column since 2000.