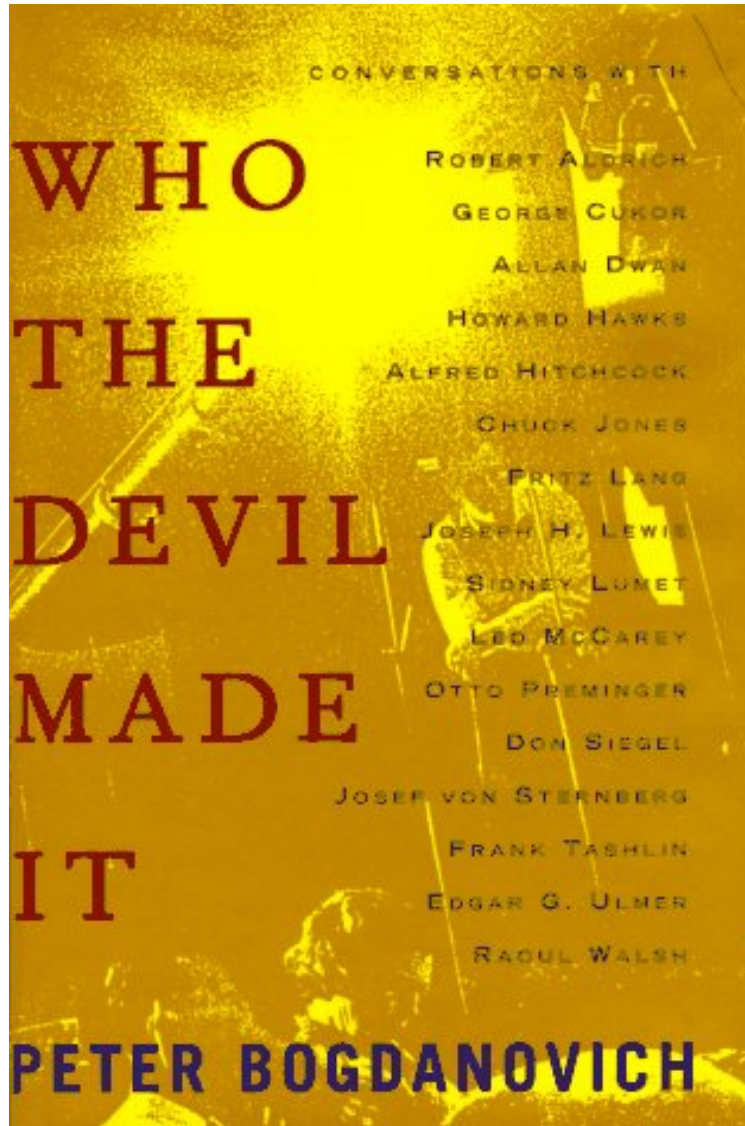


Who the Devil Made It: Conversations with ...

Peter Bogdanovich

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Peter Bogdanovich : Who the Devil Made It: Conversations with ... before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Who the Devil Made It: Conversations with ...:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Good Book For Hollywood Buffs By Joseph L. Burke I enjoyed this book. It is rich in background information and written with skill and insight. Strangely enough, while I enjoyed the book, when I purchased movies directed by this author, I was sorely disappointed in their quality. Apparently author Bogdanovich is a solid writer but not, in my opinion, a good director. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Haven't finished reading yet, but what I have leads ... By Litchfield MN purchaser Haven't finished reading yet, but

what I have leads me to rate it "5 stars" - I greatly appreciate Peter Bogdanovich and all those who made the effort to record the histories of the earliest film pioneers, and this book, along with Kevin Brownlow's work, is significant for the depth and breadth in understanding the beginning of the motion picture industry. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Film Lovers' RequirementBy sreepl11The best book on the early film industry I know of. Lost my copy a few years ago, chain bookstore researched it and told me it was out of print. I was delighted to find it on , in hard cover, like new, and cheap! Major happiness.

Peter Bogdanovich, award-winning director, screenwriter, actor and critic, interviews 16 legendary directors over a 15-year period. Their richly illuminating conversations combine to make this a riveting chronicle of Hollywood and picture making. A Literary Guild Selection. 62 photos.

.com The title comes from an exchange between filmmakers Howard Hawks and Peter Bogdanovich. Asked which directors he preferred, Hawks replied, "I liked almost anybody that made you realize who in the devil was making the picture." Hawks is talking about distinctive directorial personality, about movies that bear the stamp of a filmmaker's character. This book collects 16 interviews Bogdanovich conducted with some of the best directors working in the golden age of Hollywood. All of them, from the famous--Alfred Hitchcock, Fritz Lang, Chuck Jones, and Hawks himself--to the lesser known but equally wonderful Leo McCarey, George Cukor, Josef von Sternberg, and Edgar G. Ulmer--had a remarkable and inimitable style. In their interviews, they provide insight into their craft and a view of Hollywood's golden age that is informative, anecdotal, and often hysterically funny. From Library Journal Noted film director (The Last Picture Show, 1971) and author (This Is Orson Welles, LJ 11/15/92) Bogdanovich here consolidates 16 interviews with a very representative selection of significant cinema pioneers. Bogdanovich begins with a lengthy introduction in which he lays out his credentials, provides an overview of cinema history, and discusses the pervading influence of Ernst Lubitsch (d. 1947). Each director receives a career analysis followed by the interview and concluding with vital statistics and a complete filmography. As a film historian, Bogdanovich knew which questions to ask. Except for the previously unpublished Robert Aldrich and George Cukor interviews, these pieces originally appeared in periodicals, monographs, and books dating as far back as 1960. The books are out of print, and some of the periodicals are hard to find, making this compendium very valuable, even essential, for film collections. ?Kim R. Holston, American Inst. for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Lib., Malvern, Pa. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s This massive collection of lengthy, in-depth conversations with 16 of Hollywood's greatest directors is a film buff's delight. Before he became a director in the late 1960s, Bogdanovich (The Killing of the Unicorn, 1984, etc.) enjoyed a notable career in film criticism. He ceaselessly promoted American film's neglected achievements and sought out the directors he admired for interviews. Some of these interviews were first published in the '60s. Many more, compiled over the course of more than a decade, are previously unpublished. Bogdanovich has a first-rate understanding of the difficult and elusive craft of directing. Among the accomplished and diverse figures included here are Robert Aldrich, George Cukor, Howard Hawks, Alfred Hitchcock, Fritz Lang, Sidney Lumet, Otto Preminger, Don Siegel, Josef von Sternberg, and Raoul Walsh. As becomes clear in the course of these interviews, most of them learned their craft from the ground up in the wildly innovative days of silent film. They explain to Bogdanovich how they gradually learned to fight for and preserve their individual styles in a studio system that increasingly viewed movies as product and art as an irritant. If there is one thing that all of these men held in common, it was a belief in the primacy of the image. They were always trying to tell their stories in a highly individual visual style so that, as one producer said to director Joseph Lewis, "every foot of film has your signature on it." While there are plenty of revealing anecdotes and thorough discussions of movies and stars, the level of detail here can be daunting. Elaborate dissections of how shots were set up and theories of lighting will delight cinephiles but may be a little too much for the average moviegoer. A fine achievement that helps illuminate the art and craft of some remarkable directors. (62 bw photos, not seen) -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.