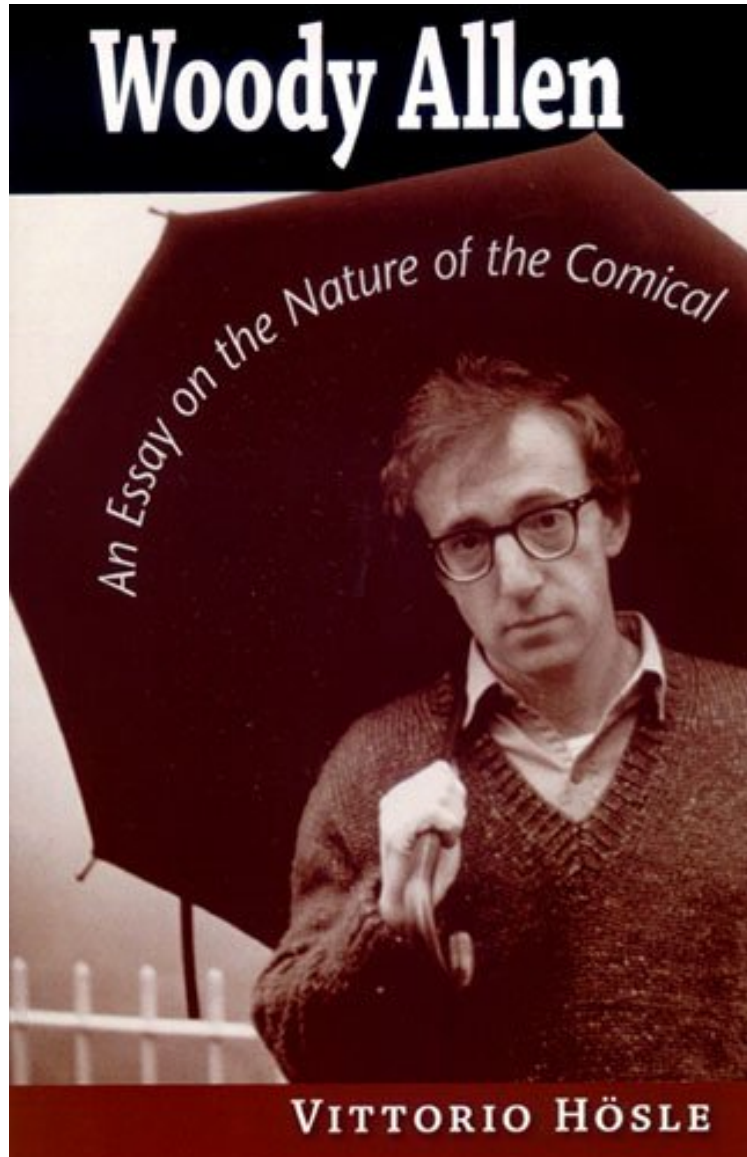


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## Woody Allen: An Essay on the Nature of the Comical

*Vittorio G. Hosle*

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**Vittorio G. Hosle : Woody Allen: An Essay on the Nature of the Comical** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Woody Allen: An Essay on the Nature of the Comical:

In this extended essay, Vittorio Hsle develops a theory of the comical and applies it to interpret both the recurrent

personae played by Woody Allen the actor and the philosophical issues addressed by Woody Allen the director in his films. Taking Henri Bergsons analysis of laughter as a starting point, Hsle integrates aspects of other theories of laughter to construct his own more finely-articulated and expanded model. With this theory in hand, Hsle discusses the incongruity in the characters played by Woody Allen and describes how these personae are realized in his work.

With breathtaking intellectual agility, Hosle . . . balances theories of the comical with the humor of Woody Allen. . . . His analysis never damages Allen's verbal or visual humor. Difficult, without being ponderous, his 'essay' demands sophistication and erudition. It will please scholars who love a profound challenge. Choice