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Who the Devil Made It: Conversations with ...

By Peter Bogdanovich



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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.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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 Except for the previously unpublished Robert Aldrich and George Cukor interviews, these pieces originally appeared in periodicals, monographs, and books dating as far back as 1960.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.
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From Kirkus Reviews

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 b&w photos, not seen) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Holly Taylor:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want experience happy read one with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The actual Who the Devil Made It: Conversations with ... is kind of book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Anna Snyder:

Reading a e-book can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a book will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a reserve you will get new information mainly because book is one of various ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, examining a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you reading a book especially fiction book the author will bring you to definitely imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this Who the Devil Made It: Conversations with ..., you can tells your family, friends and soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a guide.

Lena Garcia:

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