

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

NORA M. ALTER AND TIMOTHY CORRIGAN 1

PART I. FOUNDATIONS

1. "ON THE NATURE AND FORM OF THE ESSAY"

GEORG LUKÁCS 21

2. *THE MAN WITHOUT QUALITIES*

ROBERT MUSIL 41

3. "ON THE ESSAY AND ITS PROSE"

MAX BENSE 49

4. "THE ESSAY AS FORM"

THEODOR W. ADORNO 60

5. "PREFACE TO *THE COLLECTED ESSAYS
OF ALDOUS HUXLEY*"

ALDOUS HUXLEY 83

PART II. THE ESSAY FILM THROUGH HISTORY

6. "THE FILM ESSAY: A NEW TYPE OF
DOCUMENTARY FILM"

HANS RICHTER 89

7. "THE FUTURE OF CINEMA"

ALEXANDRE ASTRUC 93

8. "BAZIN ON MARKER"

ANDRÉ BAZIN 102

PART III. CONTEMPORARY POSITIONS

9. "IN SEARCH OF THE CENTAUR: THE ESSAY-FILM"

PHILLIP LOPATE 109

10. "THE POLITICAL IM/PERCEPTIBLE IN THE ESSAY FILM:
*FAROCKI'S IMAGES OF THE WORLD AND
THE INSCRIPTION OF WAR*"

NORA M. ALTER 134

11. "ESSAY QUESTIONS"

PAUL ARTHUR 161

12. "THE ELECTRONIC ESSAY"

MICHAEL RENOV 172

13. "THE ESSAY FILM: PROBLEMS, DEFINITIONS,
TEXTUAL COMMITMENTS"

Laura Rascaroli 183

14. "OF THE HISTORY OF THE ESSAY FILM:
VERTOV TO VARDA"

TIMOTHY CORRIGAN 197

15. "THE CINEMA AND THE ESSAY AS A WAY OF THINKING"

RAYMOND BELLOUR 227

16. "THE ESSAY FILM: FROM FILM FESTIVAL FAVORITE TO
FLEXIBLE COMMODITY FORM?"

THOMAS ELSAESSER 240

PART IV. FILMMAKERS ON THE ESSAYISTIC

17. "PERFORMING BORDERS: TRANSNATIONAL VIDEO"

URSULA BIEMANN 261

18. "PROPOSAL FOR A TUSSLE"

JEAN-PIERRE GORIN 269

19. "THE ESSAY AS CONFORMISM? SOME NOTES ON
GLOBAL IMAGE ECONOMIES"

HITO STEYERL 276

20. "ON WRITING THE FILM ESSAY"

LYNNE SACHS 287

21. "TRAMP STEAMER"

ROSS McELWEE 292

22. "THE ABCs OF THE FILM ESSAY"

HARUN FAROCKI AND CHRISTA BLÜMLINGER 297

23. "RIDDLES AS ESSAY FILM"

LAURA MULVEY 314

24. "CERTAIN OBLIQUENESSES"

RENÉE GREEN 323

25. "ESSAY DOCUMENTARY: THE DISEMBODIED NARRATOR
AND AN UNCLAIMED IMAGE THAT FLOATS THROUGH
SPACE AND TIME"

REA TAJIRI 333

26. "FROM *TEN THOUSAND WAVES* TO LINA BO BARDI,
VIA *KAPITAL*"

ISAAC JULIEN 335

Bibliography 345

Contributors 351

Permissions 361

Index 363