

# Film Culture Reader

*Edited and with an Introduction by*  
**P. Adams Sitney**



# CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i> , by P. Adams Sitney	v
Introduction: A Reader's Guide to the American Avant-Garde Film, by P. ADAMS SITNEY	3
One: The Formative Years, 1955-58	13
The Film as an Original Art Form, by HANS RICHTER	15
The Experimental Film in America, by JONAS MEKAS	21
Metaphysic of <i>Ordet</i> : A Letter from CARL TH. DREYER	27
<i>Citizen Kane</i> : The American Baroque, by ANDREW SARRIS	29
In Memoriam of Dimitri Kirsanov, a Neglected Master, by WALTER S. MICHEL	37
A Preface to the Problems of the Experimental Film, by PARKER TYLER	42
<i>The Merry Widow</i> , Introduced by ERICH VON STROHEIM	52
Portrait of an Artist, by RUDOLF ARNHEIM	57
A Footnote to <i>Foolish Wives</i> , by HERMAN G. WEINBERG	62
Coffee, Brandy, & Cigars XXX, by HERMAN G. WEINBERG	65
Two: The New American Cinema	71
A Call for a New Generation of Film-Makers, by JONAS MEKAS	73
For an Uncontrolled Cinema, by RICHARD LEACOCK	76
The First Statement of the New American Cinema Group	79
To Maya Deren, by RUDOLF ARNHEIM	84
Notes on the New American Cinema, by JONAS MEKAS	87
For <i>Shadows</i> , Against <i>Pull My Daisy</i> , by PARKER TYLER	108

Three: The Commercial Cinema and the <i>Auteur</i> Theory	119
Notes on the <i>Auteur</i> Theory in 1962, by ANDREW SARRIS	121
The Camera as a God, by CHARLES BOULTENHOUSE	136
Dreyer, by KEN KELMAN	141
Defense of Jayne Mansfield, by MICHAEL McCLURE	160
Four: The American Avant-Garde	169
Poetry and the Film: A Symposium with Maya Deren, Arthur Miller, Dylan Thomas, Parker Tyler. Chairman, Willard Maas. Organized by Amos Vogel.	171
Imagism in Four Avant-Garde Films, by P. ADAMS SITNEY	187
Interview with Stan Brakhage, by P. ADAMS SITNEY	201
The Birth Film, by JANE BRAKHAGE	230
Respond Dance, by STAN BRAKHAGE	234
On <i>The Art of Vision</i> , by ROBERT KELLY	258
Harry Smith Interview, by P. ADAMS SITNEY	260
Kenneth Anger's <i>Scorpio Rising</i> , by CAROLEE SCHNEEMANN	277
Smith Myth, by KEN KELMAN	280
Interview with Peter Kubelka, by JONAS MEKAS	285
Some Notes on <i>Sleep</i> , by HENRY GELDZAHLER	300
The Cosmic Cinema of Jordan Belson, by GENE YOUNGBLOOD	302
Notes on Some New Movies and Happiness, by JONAS MEKAS	317
Structural Film, by P. ADAMS SITNEY	326
On "Structural Film" (by P. Adams Sitney) by GEORGE MACIUNAS	349
Five: Overviews and Theoretical Considerations	351
The Writings of Dziga Vertov	353
Orson Welles and the <i>Big</i> Experimental Film Cult, by PARKER TYLER	376
Classic Plastics (and Total Tectonics), by KEN KELMAN	387
The Image of the Body, by ROBERT KELLY	393
A Note on Comedy in Experimental Film, by SIDNEY PETERSON	398
Film and the Radical Aspiration, by ANNETTE MICHELSON	404
<i>Appendix: The Independent Film Award</i>	423
<i>Index</i>	430

A section of illustrations follows page 214.