# In Search of Cinema

## Writings on International Film Art

### BERT CARDULLO

FOREWORD BY RICHARD GILMAN

## Contents

Foreword: Of Films, Critics, and Chronicity ix

Introduction: First Principles 3

#### PART ONE FOCUS ON IRANIAN CINEMA

- 1 Writing about Iranian Cinema 21
- 2 A Girl and Two Women: On Panahi's *The White Balloon* (1995, Iran) and Dugowson's *Mina Tannenbaum* (1994, France) 27
- 3 Blood and Cherries, Snow and Dust: On Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter* (1997, Canada) and Kiarostami's *A Taste of Cherry* (1997, Iran) 39
- 4 Mirror Images, or Children of Paradise: On Makhmalbaf's The Apple (1998, Iran) and Panahi's The Mirror (1997, Iran) 62
- 5 Angels beyond America: On Majidi's *The Children of Heaven* (1997, Iran) and Zonca's *The Dreamlife of Angels* (1998, France) 72
- 6 The Children Are Watching Us: On De Sica's *The Children Are Watching Us* (1943, Italy) and Majidi's *The Color of Paradise* (1999, Iran) 83

vi Contents

- 7 Women and Children First: On Panahi's *The Circle* (2000, Iran) and Ramsay's *Ratcatcher* (1999, Scotland) 97
- 8 Carry Me Home: On Zhang Yimou's *The Road Home* (2000, China), Kiarostami's *The Wind Will Carry Us* (1999, Iran), and Rossellini's *Europe '51* (1952, Italy) 113

### PART TWO EUROPE, THE AMERICAS, AND BEYOND

- 9 The Happiness of Your Friends and Neighbors: On LaBute's Your Friends and Neighbors (1998, USA) and Solondz's Happiness (1998, USA) 139
- 10 Getting Straight: On Lynch's The Straight Story (1999, USA) 151
- 11 Stones and Roses: On the Dardennes' Rosetta (1999, Belgium) and Schrader's Affliction (1998, USA) 164
- 12 Hot and Cold, or Seasons Change: On Rohmer's Autumn Tale (1998, France) and Assayas's Late August, Early September (1999, France) 175
- 13 All about My, Your, Their Mother: On Zambrano's Solas (1999, Spain) and Waddington's Me, You, Them (2000, Brazil) 187
- Of Virgin Suicide, Human Bondage, and Male Indulgence: On Coppola's *The Virgin Suicides* (2000, USA), Gitai's *Kadosh* (1999, Israel), and Doueiri's *West Beirut* (1998, Lebanon) 202
- The Space of Time, the Sound of Silence: On Ozon's Under the Sand (2000, France) and Tsai's What Time Is It There? (2001, Taiwan) 215
- 16 Aberdeen on the Adriatic: On Moland's Aberdeen (2000, Norway) and Moretti's The Son's Room (2001, Italy) 232

### PART THREE FORM, GENRE, OEUVRE, AND OTHER ARTS

- Wooden Allen, or Artificial Exteriors: On the Film Career of Woody Allen 251
- 18 Latter-Day Bergman: Autumn Sonata as Paradigm 260
- 19 Notes on Film Genre: On Stagecoach (1939, USA), The Organizer (1963, Italy), The Cameraman (1928, USA), Psycho (1960, USA), and In Which We Serve (1942, UK) 267

- 20 Notes on Film Form: On General della Rovere (1959, Italy), Just Before Nightfall (1971, France), and Claire's Knee (1970, France) 284
- Theatre and Fiction into Film: Notes on Two Paradigmatic Scenes, One Metaphoric Fiction, and An Omnibus Adaptation: On *The Little Foxes* (1941, USA), *Housekeeping* (1987, USA), *Trainspotting* (1996, Scotland), and *Dangerous Liaisons* (1988, UK) 292
- 22 The Preemptive Image 315

Further Reading 323

Selected Directorial Filmographies 331

Index 337