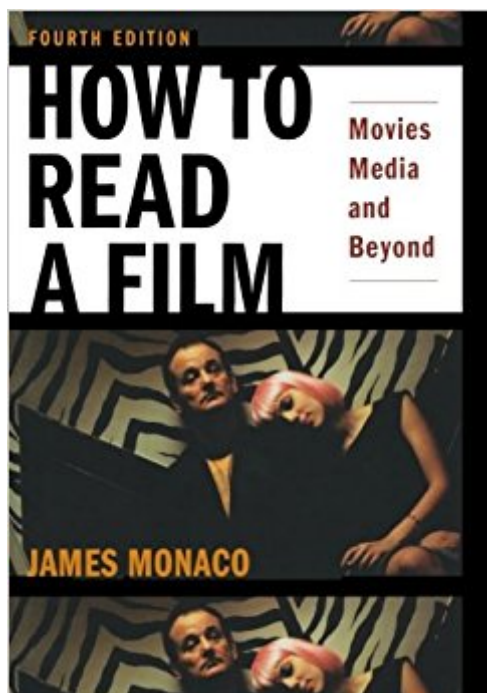


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# How To Read A Film: Movies, Media, And Beyond



## Synopsis

Richard Gilman referred to *How to Read a Film* as simply "the best single work of its kind." And Janet Maslin in *The New York Times Book Review* marveled at James Monaco's ability to collect "an enormous amount of useful information and assemble it in an exhilaratingly simple and systematic way." Indeed, since its original publication in 1977, this hugely popular book has become the definitive source on film and media. Now, James Monaco offers a special anniversary edition of his classic work, featuring a new preface and several new sections, including an "Essential Library: One Hundred Books About Film and Media You Should Read" and "One Hundred Films You Should See." As in previous editions, Monaco once again looks at film from many vantage points, as both art and craft, sensibility and science, tradition and technology. After examining film's close relation to other narrative media such as the novel, painting, photography, television, and even music, the book discusses the elements necessary to understand how films convey meaning, and, more importantly, how we can best discern all that a film is attempting to communicate. In addition, Monaco stresses the still-evolving digital context of film throughout--one of the new sections looks at the untrustworthy nature of digital images and sound--and his chapter on multimedia brings media criticism into the twenty-first century with a thorough discussion of topics like virtual reality, cyberspace, and the proximity of both to film. With hundreds of illustrative black-and-white film stills and diagrams, *How to Read a Film* is an indispensable addition to the library of everyone who loves the cinema and wants to understand it better.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Anyone who writes about film, or who is interested in film seriously, just has to have it."--Richard Roud, Director of the New York Film Festival

James Monaco is a writer, publisher, and producer. His books include *American Film Now*, *The New Wave*, *The Encyclopedia of Film*, and *The Connoisseur's Guide to the Movies*. He lives and works in the New York City area.

The best, most accessible book for a high school teacher (which I am) is Jonathan Golden's *Reading in the Dark*. They all cover the same material; the language is a bit different, and the attention to details varies. This book works, but it is a little thick with details that don't matter as much to the novice film student (which I am and which I teach)

A lot of the book's focus is on historic and technical details, which would make it excellent for an in-depth, well-focused course in scholarly film history, technique and theory. I acquired it for a general survey course for adult education students, mostly because it was affordable compared with other possible texts. Because it's more appropriate for the serious film student rather than the casual film buff, I chose the easiest chapters for them to absorb quickly, which was maybe 1/3 of the book. Although my class was made up of sophisticated individuals, they wanted something less technical. For future classes, I'll look for another general survey, probably one with more general film reviews and criticism focused on mainstream topics and social criticism.

I've been a reader of Monaco's *How to Read a Film* since the first edition. Over the years my admiration for it grows and grows. It is one of the few decent comprehensive books on the theories, history, technologies and cultural impact of motion pictures that manages to be both accessible to a novice and still valuable to an expert in the field. It's also very well written in a style that makes it a pleasure to read.

Was a textbook for one of my classes. Interesting. Good read.

I bought a brand new book and it was only around \$12 to \$16 dollars. A good book for people who want to study the ins and outs of the film industry.

Excellent book, in great condition, and very useful to me. Thanks!!!

Very good book.

Monaco is a reference to film viewers and his tips are allways sound. I read it as a consulting volume

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