



Peckinpah Today: New Essays on the Films of Sam Peckinpah

Michael Bliss

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Written exclusively for this collection by today's leading Peckinpah critics, the nine essays in *Peckinpah Today* explore the body of work of one of America's most important filmmakers, revealing new insights into his artistic process and the development of his lasting themes. Edited by Michael Bliss, this book provides groundbreaking criticism of Peckinpah's work by illuminating new sources, from modified screenplay documents to interviews with screenplay writers and editors.

Included is a rare interview with A. S. Fleischman, author of the screenplay for *The Deadly Companions*, the film that launched Peckinpah's career in feature films. The collection also contains essays by scholar Stephen Prince and Paul Seydor, editor of the controversial special edition of *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*. In his essay on *Straw Dogs*, film critic Michael Sragow reveals how Peckinpah and co-scriptwriter David Zelag Goodman transformed a pulp novel into a powerful film. The final essay of the collection surveys Peckinpah's career, showing the dark turn that the filmmaker's artistic path took between his first and last films. This comprehensive approach reinforces the book's dawn-to-dusk approach, resulting in a fascinating picture of a great filmmaker's work.

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