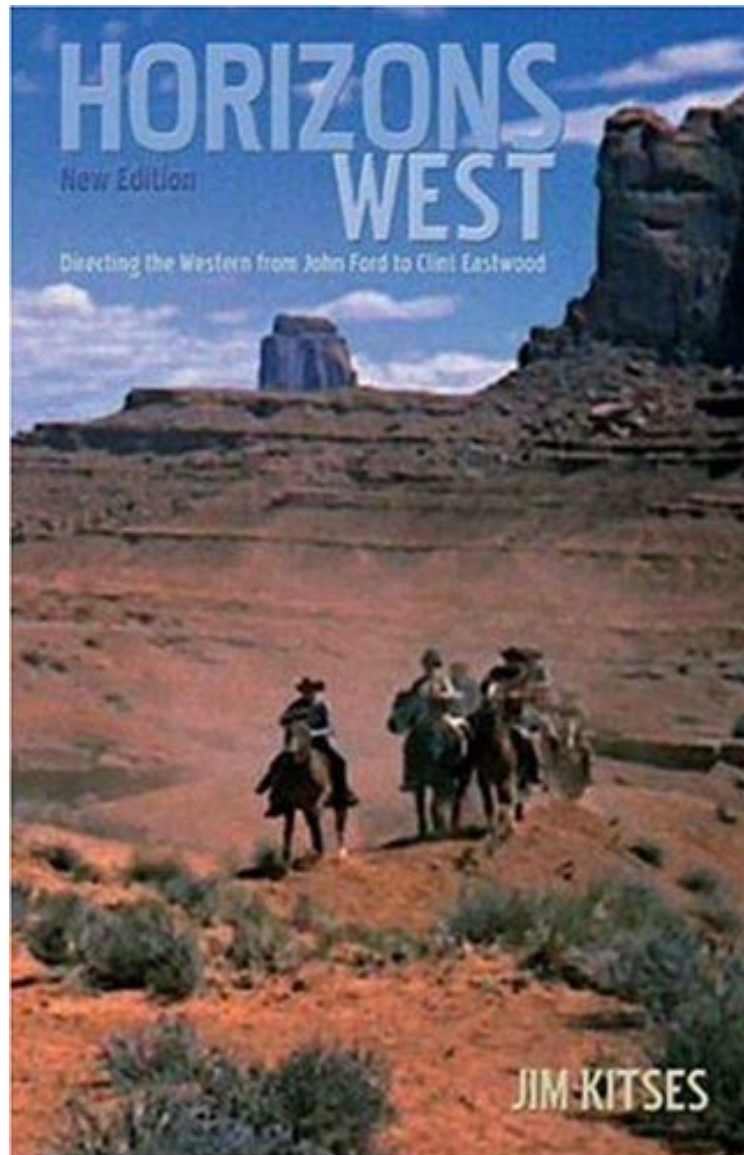


[Free pdf] Horizons West: Directing the Western from John Ford to Clint Eastwood (Film Classics S.)

Horizons West: Directing the Western from John Ford to Clint Eastwood (Film Classics S.)

Jim Kitses

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Jim Kitses : Horizons West: Directing the Western from John Ford to Clint Eastwood (Film Classics S.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Horizons West: Directing the Western from John Ford to Clint Eastwood (Film Classics S.):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read For Serious Fans Of Western MoviesBy

TMStyles "Horizons West" is subtitled "Directing The Western From John Ford To Clint Eastwood" and it reads as a powerful primer on creating, directing, and dissecting the Western movie genre. It is an excellent revision of the original 1969 book that includes newer perspectives as well as adds the work of Ford, Leone, and Eastwood. It is a scholarly effort that is well researched, annotated, and footnoted with an excellent bibliography and filmography included. After opening with generic comments regarding the practice and theory of directing the Western and an overview of the history and development of the genre, Kitses explores in some depth the westerns of six acknowledged masters of the Western movie. He uses the great John Ford as his stepping stone to future Western movie directors including Anthony Mann, Budd Boetticher, Sam Peckinpah, Sergio Leone, and, lastly, Clint Eastwood. "Horizons West" reads like a college text which it likely is in some places. Students of the Western movie genre or just plain fans of Westerns should enjoy the rich detail provided by Kitses as he dissects each of the major efforts of the six directors in search of recurring themes, perspectives, controversies, and, in general, the stories behind the story. It is illuminating to explore how Ford matured and changed his perspectives over his career, how Peckinpah's career was constantly a battle with studio bosses, and how and why Leone and Eastwood drifted apart over the years. I always find it intriguing to discover which actors had originally been offered and rejected roles that later made someone else famous (such as James Coburn and Charles Bronson turning down Leone's Man-With-No-Name trilogy that skyrocketed Eastwood to fame). This is a fact filled text filled with detail and perspective on many of the most famous Western movies made. A number of photos of actors and sets are included as is information on who wrote, starred in, and produced most of them. I heartily recommend this effort to fans and students of the Western movie and its place in American cinema history. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A CLASSIC STUDY RE-WORKED AND REISSUED By Andrew Mangravite Back in the late 1960s Jim Kitses wrote an enjoyable study of three western directors who at the time were not nearly as highly regarded as they are today. His chapters on Anthony Mann and Budd Boetticher were marvelous because both directors had pretty much completed their contributions to the western genre. The chapter on Sam Peckinpah left something to be desired since, at the time, Peckinpah had only three feature films--all of them westerns--under his belt. This new edition addresses that problem by providing a career-length reassessment of Peckinpah's contributions to the western. The other new material--mainly on John Ford and Clint Eastwood--is certainly readable, but I'm not certain that it was essential. Nevertheless it is good to have this volume back in print once more. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Judy Walker Very useful resource in studying the western films.

When first published in 1969, *Horizons West* was immediately recognised as the definitive critical account of the Western film and some of its key directors. This greatly expanded new edition is, like the original, written in a graceful, penetrating and absorbingly readable style.

"Indispensable guide to the Western."--Douglas Pye From the Back Cover When first published in 1969, *Horizons West* was immediately recognised as the definitive critical account of the Western film and some of its key directors. This greatly expanded new edition now provides definitive critical analysis of the six greatest film-makers of the Western genre: John Ford, Anthony Mann, Budd Boetticher, Sam Peckinpah, Sergio Leone and Clint Eastwood. And it offers illuminating accounts of such classic Westerns as *The Searchers*, *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*, *Once Upon a Time in the West*, *Shane* and many more. Among the completely new material in this edition is Kitses's magisterial account of the work of the greatest of Western directors, John Ford. Kitses also assesses how the Western has been challenged by revisionist historical accounts of the West and the Western, and by movements such as feminism, postmodernism, multiculturalism, and psychoanalysis. The product of a lifetime's labour and love, *Horizons West* is a landmark of scholarship and interpretation devoted to, what it for many, Hollywood's signature genre. It provides a compelling account of the powerful mythology of America's past as forged by Western films and the men who made them. About the Author JIM KITSE is Professor of Cinema, San Francisco State University. He is the author of *Gun Crazy* (1994) and co-editor of *The Western Reader* (1998).