

[Ebook pdf] Joel and Ethan Coen (Contemporary Film Directors)

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R. Barton Palmer

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R. Barton Palmer : Joel and Ethan Coen (Contemporary Film Directors) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Joel and Ethan Coen (Contemporary Film Directors):

With landmark films such as Fargo, O Brother Where art Thou?, Blood Simple, and Raising Arizona, the Coen brothers have achieved both critical and commercial success. Proving the existence of a viable market for small films that are also intellectually rewarding, their work has exploded generic conventions amid rich webs of trans-textural

references. In Joel and Ethan Coen, R. Barton Palmer argues that the Coen oeuvre also forms a central element in what might be called postmodernist filmmaking. Mixing high and low cultural sources and blurring genres like noir and comedy, the use of pastiche and anti-realist elements in films such as *The Hudsucker Proxy* and *Barton Fink* clearly fit the postmodernist paradigm. Palmer argues that for a full understanding of the Coen brothers unique position within film culture, it is important to see how they have developed a new type of text within general postmodernist practice that Palmer terms commercial/independent. Analyzing their substantial body of work from this generic framework is the central focus on this book.

"There is as yet only one book length analysis of any note [about the Coen Brothers] by a film scholar: R. Barton Palmer's *Joel and Ethan Coen* (2004). . . . This is a book for those who have already made the acquaintance of the Coens through their films and are now ready to think about their work seriously."--Film International