Death drives


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Abstract

Book synopsis: This new collection of writings on Alfred Hitchcock considers Hitchcock both in his time and as a continuing influence on filmmakers, films and film theory. The contributions, who include leading scholars such as Slavoj Zizek, Laura Mulvey, Peter Wollen, and James Naremore, discuss canonical films such as Notorious and The Birds alongside lesser-known works including Juno and the Paycock and Frenzy. Articles are grouped into four thematic sections: ‘Authorship and Aesthetics’ examines Hitchcock as auteur and investigates central topics in Hitchcockian aesthetics. ‘French Hitchcock’ looks at Hitchcock’s influence on filmmakers such as Chabrol, Truffaut and Rohmer, and how film critics such as Bazin and Deleuze have engaged with Hitchcock’s work. ‘Poetics and Politics of Identity’ explores the representation of personal and political in Hitchcock’s work. The final section, ‘Death and Transfiguration’ addresses the manner in which the spectacle and figuration of death haunts the narrative universe of Hitchcock’s films, in particular his subversive masterpiece Psycho.

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