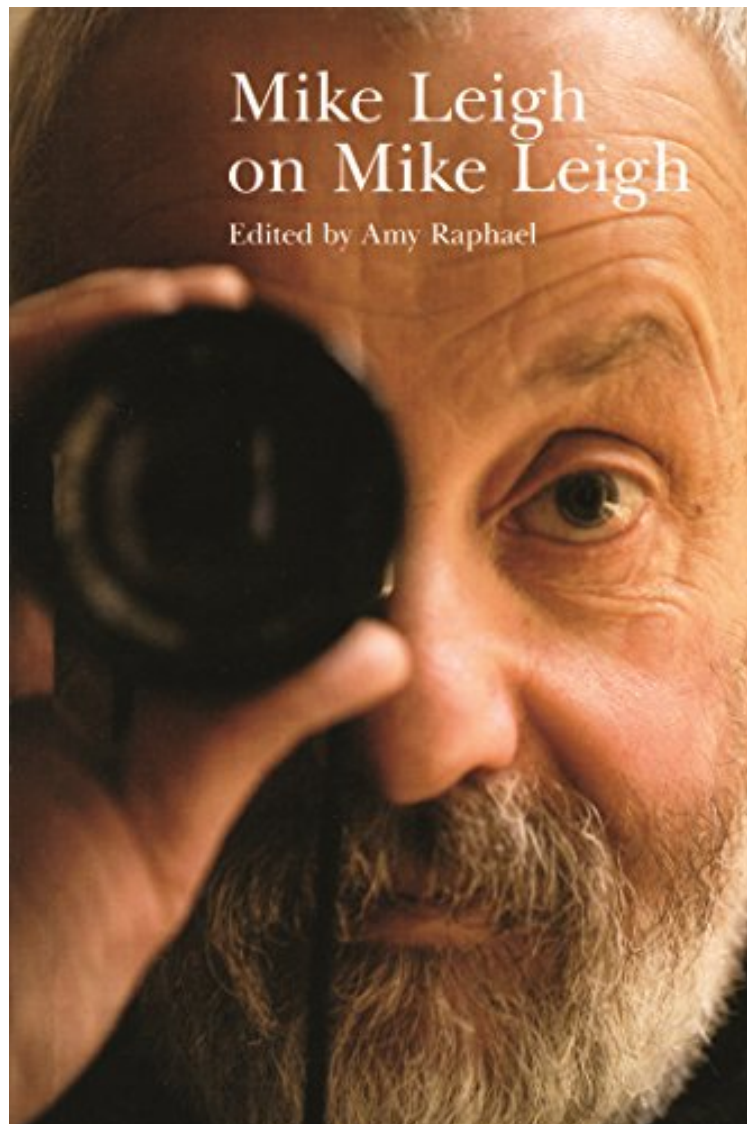


(Free) Mike Leigh on Mike Leigh (Directors on Directors)

Mike Leigh on Mike Leigh (Directors on Directors)

From Raphael Amy

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From Raphael Amy : Mike Leigh on Mike Leigh (Directors on Directors) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mike Leigh on Mike Leigh (Directors on Directors):

An insightful collection of original interviews with the innovative director of *Secrets Lies*A five-time Oscar nominee and BAFTA winner and the only British director to have won the top prize at both Cannes (for *Secrets Lies*) and Venice (for *Vera Drake*), Mike Leigh is unquestionably one of world cinema's preeminent figures. First trained in

theater, Leigh devised his own method for the making of first plays and then films, based on months of improvisation and rehearsal with actors prior to shooting. Leigh's actors invent characters based on real people, each unaware of what the other is up to or the larger design Leigh has in mind. In their commingling of bleakness and humor, Leigh's films re-create the tragicomic world of people whose everyday lives are far from glamorous: a world in which "the done thing" usually prevails, contrary to our inner hopes, wants, or needs. Leigh's work has always reflected its times and entered the vernacular, whether the harsh studies of *Meantime* and *Naked* or the humor of the now legendary *Abigail's Party* and *Nuts in May*. Above all, Leigh is an accomplished storyteller, and these films deal with universal themes: births, marriages and deaths, parenthood and failed relationships, families and their secrets and lies. Leigh speaks to Amy Raphael more openly than ever before about his life and inimitable working method, revealing himself as passionate, wise, and the owner of a dry and playful Mancunian wit.

About the Author Amy Raphael was born in London in 1967. She has worked for *Elle* and *Esquire* and now freelances for *The Observer* and *The Daily Telegraph*. Her first book, *Never Mind the Bollocks: Women Rewrite Rock* was published by Virago in 1995.