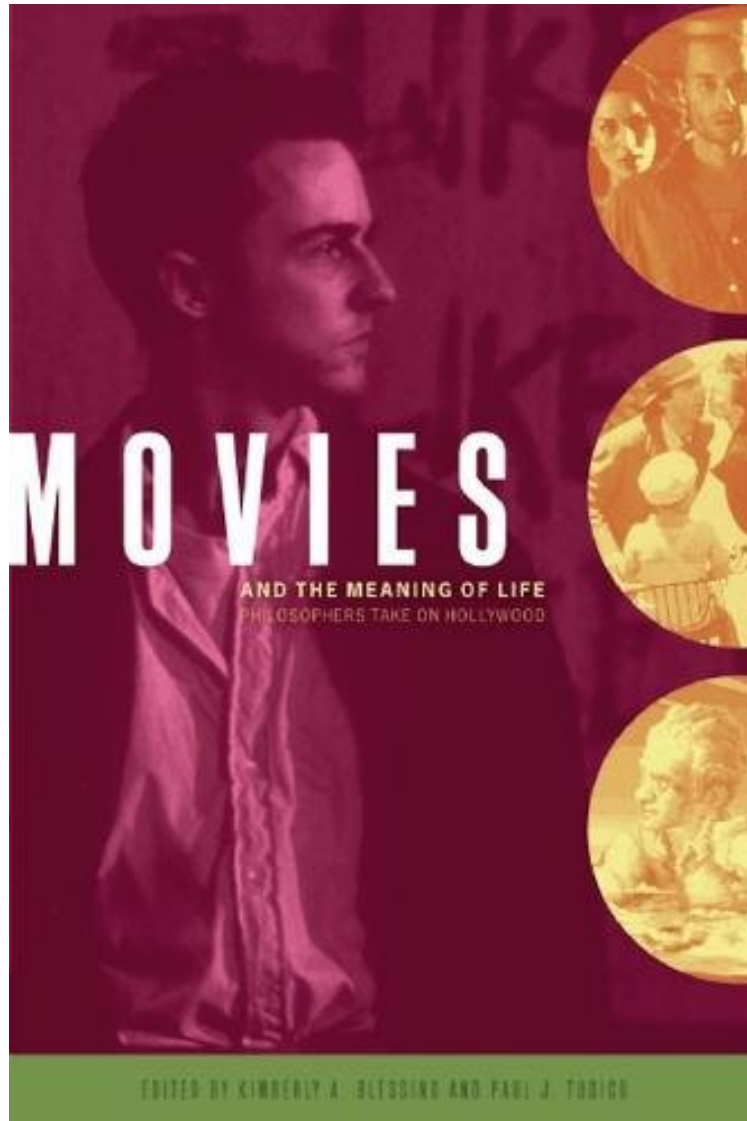


Movies and the Meaning of Life

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From Brand: Open Court : Movies and the Meaning of Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Movies and the Meaning of Life:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Accessible exploration of PhilosophyBy Christopher HellstromThis book is accessible to students and armchair philosophers who love movies. At a time where common culture is dwindling, movies seem to be the only thing that links us together. It is also an art form that is vital in a time where novels, sadly, have become a near obsolete form of expression. This book takes ideas and movies seriously. and it also takes movies seriously. It inspired me to take a second look at some of the movies like Being John Malkovich and

Memento. Reading Kimberly Blessing's lead piece in the book on Descartes and the movie The Truman Show reminded me how much that particular movie anticipated the rise of reality TV. Truman Show brings Nozick's experience machine thought experiment to life. Movies and the Meaning of Life is as great as a supplement for introductory philosophy classes. I hope it sells well so that an expanded volume may be published which includes new movies like Adaptation (Identity) and Million Dollar Baby (Bio Ethics). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great, easy, fast exactBy Pearlvery cheap and easy to purchase and I got exactly what I needed 100% just go ahead and buy new and it will save you time and money6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Moving Pictures and Moving MindsBy Dash ManchetteAs a movie buff interested in philosophy, MOVIES AND THE MEANING OF LIFE really jumped out at me as something to check out. I am glad I did. Many people probably think of philosophy as all stuffy, the realm of eggheads. It can be. But it can also be presented to people in a form that is not only accessible, but fun. This book achieves that.Broken down into five sections and nineteen chapters, MOVIES AND THE MEANING OF LIFE explores some of the deep issues that some of history's heaviest intellects have wrestled with. The essence of reality, personal identity and what it even means to be an individual, religiosity and atheism, how to live one's life, and what one should try to get out of life are all explored. But the exploration, wonderfully, takes place through an examination of Spider-Man, Fight Club, Minority Report and numerous other movies. One of the strengths of the book is that most of the movies are well enough known for the book to be attractive to a good number of people, but with a few lesser known flicks thrown in for good measure.All the essays are of a fairly good quality. However, as the essays are written by different philosophers, everyone will agree with some interpretations and analyses more than others. Yes, personally I thought the essay for Boys Don't Cry to be just one more piece of feminist drivel, while that for The Truman Show to be thought provoking and interesting. Surely, though, someone else will have different takes on them. It also serves the larger purpose of the book - to get one to think.One of the few downsides is that the essays are not long enough to do anything more than scratch the surface of the ideas they explore. While I do not want 80 page theses on each movie, cutting the number of movies down to increase the essay size by another five or ten pages might have made the book better. Quality over quantity, I say. But I also say take what you can get.The publisher of MOVIES AND THE MEANING OF LIFE has published a number of other books exploring philosophy through popular culture. Several look quite interesting and, based upon this one, I will no doubt read more. I recommend you do, as well.

"The meaning of life is the most urgent of questions," said the existentialist thinker Albert Camus. And no less a philosopher than Woody Allen has wondered:"How is it possible to find meaning in a finite world, given my waist and shirt size?" "Movies and the Meaning of Life" looks at popular and cult movies, examining their assumptions and insights on meaning-of-life questions: What is reality and how can I know it? (The Truman Show, Contact, Waking Life); How do I find myself and my true identity? (Fight Club, Being John Malkovich, Boys Don't Cry, Memento); How do I find meaning from my interactions with others? (Pulp Fiction, Shadowlands, Chasing Amy); What is the chief purpose in life? (American Beauty, Life is Beautiful, The Shawshank Redemption); and How ought I live my life? (Pleasantville, Spiderman, Minority Report, Groundhog Day).

"...keeps with the strong intent of linking philosophical concepts to everyday popular culture...an excellent achievement" -- Midwest Book , October 2005
19 papers in which academic philosophers use contemporary Hollywood productions to illustrate some foundational concerns of their disciplines. -- Book News, Inc., July, 2005