

CINEMA AND CLASSICAL TEXTS

Apollo was the ancient god of light and the divine patron of the arts. He is therefore a fitting metaphor for cinematography, which is the modern art of writing with moving light. This book interprets films as visual texts and provides the first systematic theoretical and practical demonstration of the affinities between Greco-Roman literature and the cinema. It examines major themes from classical myth and history such as film portrayals of gods, exemplified by Apollo and the Muses; Oedipus, antiquity's most influential mythic-tragic hero; the question of heroism and patriotism in war; and the representation of women like Helen of Troy and Cleopatra as products of male desire and fantasy. Covering a wide range of European and American directors and genres and of classical authors, this study provides an innovative perspective on the two disciplines of classics and cinema and demonstrates our most influential medium's unlimited range when it adapts ancient texts.

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CINEMA AND CLASSICAL TEXTS

Apollo's New Light

MARTIN M. WINKLER



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ΦΟΙΒΩΙ ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΙ ΦΩΤΟΚΙΝΗΤΗΙ

Apollo, the god of light.

— Theodoros Angelopoulos

Light: the gentle, dangerous, dreamlike, living, dead, clear, misty, hot, violent, bare, sudden, dark, springlike, falling, straight, slanting, sensual, subdued, limited, poisonous, calming, pale light. Light.

— Ingmar Bergman

Cinema is the art of light.

— Abel Gance

There are so many ways you can use light to tell a story.

— Sven Nykvist

A film is writing in images.

— Jean Cocteau

The task I'm trying to achieve is above all to make you see.

— D. W. Griffith

There are so many things our eyes don't see. But the camera sees everything.

— Robert Bresson

The camera has X-ray eyes. It penetrates into your soul.

— Douglas Sirk

"Do you know what transforms night to light?" — "Poetry."

— Jean-Luc Godard, *Alphaville*

A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet.

— Orson Welles

I am not a poet.

— John Ford

ΚΟΣΜΟΝ ΑΝΤΙΣΤΑΘΜΟΝ ΑΛΛΑ
 ΤΑΙΣ ΕΠΙΘΥΜΙΑΙΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΟΜΟΛΟΓΟΝ
 ΔΗΛΟΙ ΤΗΙ ΟΥΕΙ Ο ΚΙΝΗΜΑΤΟΓΡΑΦΟΣ