

# The Films of Jean-Luc Godard

## Seeing the Invisible

*The Films of Jean-Luc Godard* examines the work of one of the most versatile and influential filmmakers in the history of cinema. With a career ranging from France's revolutionary New Wave movement in the early 1960s, through a period of drastic political experimentation in the late 1960s and 1970s, to a current introspective period in which he explores issues of spirituality, sexuality, and the aesthetics of sound, image, and montage, Godard's work defies easy categorization. In this study, David Sterritt offers an introductory overview of Godard's work as a filmmaker, critic, and video artist. He then traces Godard's visionary ideas through six of his key films: *Breathless*, *My Life to Live*, *Weekend*, *Numéro deux*, *Hail Mary*, and *Nouvelle Vague*. Also included is a concise analysis of his work in video, television, and mixed-media formats. Linking works by Godard to key social and cultural developments, *The Films of Jean-Luc Godard* explains their importance in modernist and postmodernist art of the past half century.

David Sterritt is Film Critic of *The Christian Science Monitor* and Professor of Film at the C. W. Post Campus of Long Island University. Author of *The Films of Alfred Hitchcock* and *Mad to Be Saved: The Beats, the 50's, and Film* and editor of *Jean-Luc Godard: Interviews*, he has contributed articles on film, theater, and music to a wide range of periodicals.

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Seeing the invisible is exhausting.

– *Hélas pour moi*

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David Sterritt  
*Long Island University*



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*As always, for Ginnie  
Craig, and Jeremy*

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