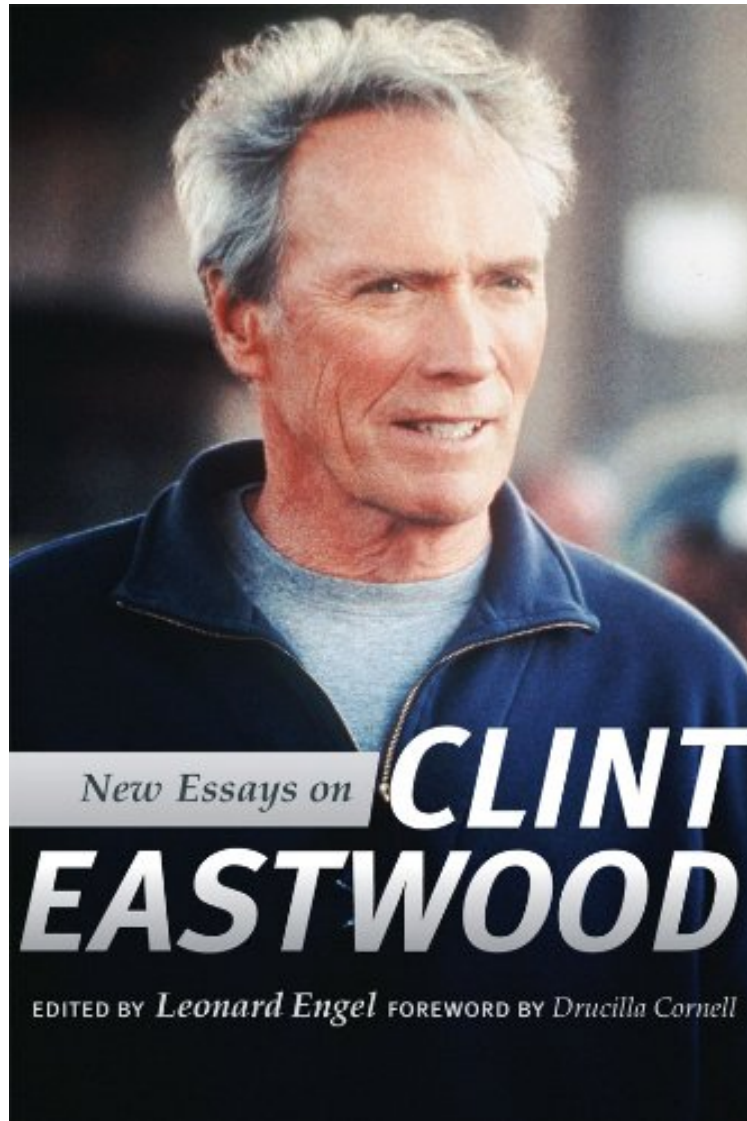


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## New Essays on Clint Eastwood

*Leonard Engel*

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**Leonard Engel : New Essays on Clint Eastwood** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Essays on Clint Eastwood:

New Essays on Clint Eastwood is a companion to Engel's previous book, Clint Eastwood, Actor and Director: New Perspectives. It includes discussion of some of Eastwood's most recent films as well as his earliest work, and deepens our overall appreciation of his artistry and his growth as an ever more accomplished storyteller. The

contributors to this new volume examine Eastwood's body of work as both actor and director: his portrayal of Rowdy Yates in the television series *Rawhide*, his directorial debut with *Play Misty for Me*, his directorial and starring role in *Gran Torino*, and his recent directorial successes with *Hereafter* and *J. Edgar*. A common thread throughout the volume is the respect for Eastwood's commitment to cinematic storytelling. Individually and collectively, the essays highlight the variety and complexity of Eastwood's themes and his accomplishments throughout a lifetime of endeavors. Examining his Westerns and detective films illustrates how Eastwood left his iconic stamp on those genres, while discussion of his more recent films expounds on his use of family, history, and myth to transcend generic conventions and to project a hard-won vision of a united humanity beyond the separation of ethnic, racial, and national conflicts. Cumulatively, the essays remind us of his lifelong devotion to perfecting his artistry and his powers as a storyteller.

"In this rich collection, we find almost all of Eastwood's major movies reviewed, with excellent critical analysis and care for Eastwood's cinematic rejection of simplistic closure. The director does not attempt to give us an ultimate vision that leaves no place for the imagination of the audience: the very opposite is the case. The texts in this volume address the richness of Eastwood in his extraordinary work, not only as a director, but also as an actor, and give rightful acknowledgment to his place of honor in the cinema of the United States."—from the foreword by Drucilla Cornell