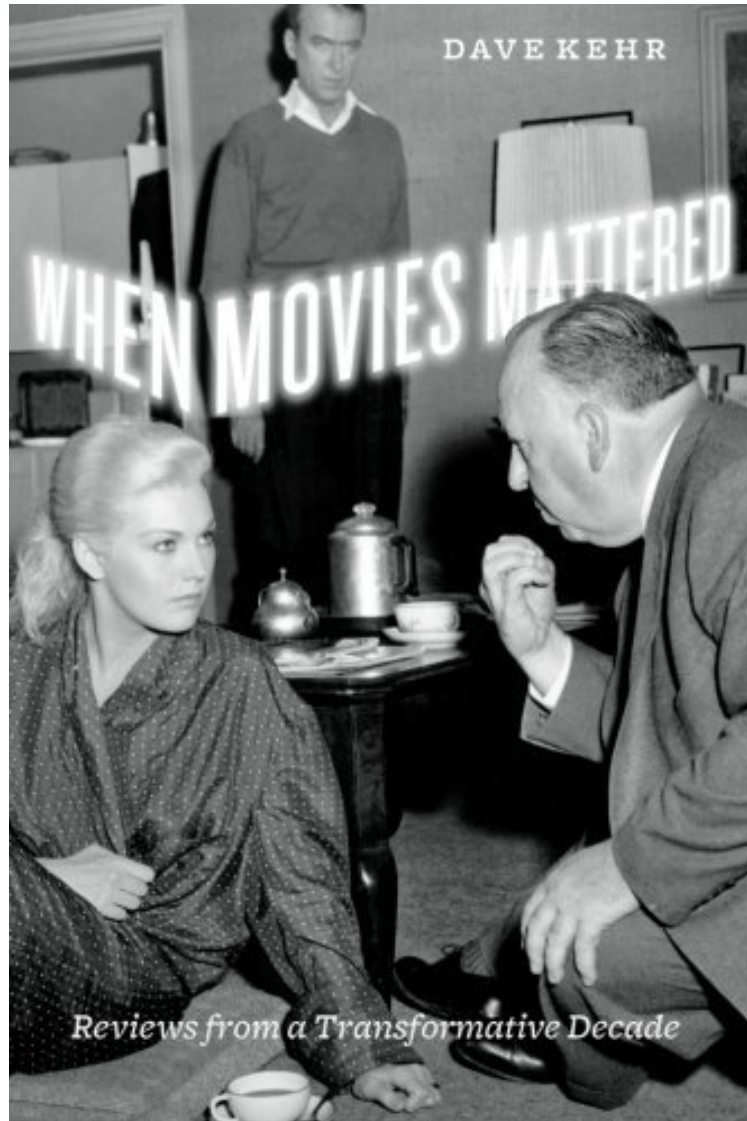


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When Movies Mattered: Reviews from a Transformative Decade

Dave Kehr

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Dave Kehr : When Movies Mattered: Reviews from a Transformative Decade before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Movies Mattered: Reviews from a Transformative Decade:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Reviews that matterBy WRLThe title "When Movies Mattered" could be a jab at current films, or maybe it's just a way of justifying a collection of reviews from three to four decades ago. Do those movies still matter? This collection of reviews will help you decide. In an average of four pages per review, Dave Kehr dissects not only a movie but also the factors that went into making the film and any ties to related films or film makers.The magic is that he does this without pontificating. Which makes for reviews that are as easy to

digest as they are fresh and informative. Dave Kehr, noted for his independence, manages to spark a kind of curiosity that plays better after all these years than, say, the quiriness of Pauline Kael, who was reviewing for the New Yorker at the time the reviews in this collection were written. Do these old reviews still matter? Surprisingly little is stale in these pages even after all this time, as long as you care about what makes for a good film and what detracts from one. If you're ever tempted to sign up for a film class, see if Dave Kehr's teaching one. And if not, we at least have this book. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Indispensable By Michael Dempsey As anyone knows who has read either this book or his New York Times DVD column, Dave Kehr is a deeply learned critic of movies and their makers. Whether or not one agrees with his assessment of this or that movie or filmmaker, one never fails to learn some new perspective on filmmaking in general as well as his particular subject. If you care about real filmmaking subjects and ideas (which doesn't mean celebrity fluff, gossip, the Oscars, and the whole Hollywood game, though Hollywood has produced large numbers of wonderful, often unsung movies that Dave Kehr analyzes incisively), you should get busy reading this book -- and I mean right now. Anyone who has already read it should read it again...and again... 10 of 13 people found the following review helpful. When reviews mattered By Hande Z Dave Kehr compiled a selection of the movie reviews he wrote for the "Chicago Reader" and the "Chicago Tribune" between 1974 and 1986, a period he described as spawning the film generation and the alternative press. He believes that the internet's takeover of the alternative press has changed the way reviewers write about movies. Contemporary reviews in mainstream press still publish reviews in the reflective, intellectual style in the vein of Kehr's work, but movie reviews in the internet age have little time for the study of the movie, let alone for reflection and composition. Some of the movies reviewed and collected here were serious documentaries or semi-documentaries - "Blaise Pascal" and "The Memory of Justice", but one need only read his review of "Dawn of the Dead" to appreciate how a movie that might be dismissed, if reviewed by today's reviewers as "mindless", brings to life a film that was about the dead idea of zombies. In "The Memory of Justice", a film about the Nuremberg trials, Kehr asked, "Should all all Americans who didn't resist Vietnam share in the guilt of the Germans who didn't resist the Nazis? If everyone is guilty, then everyone is innocent, and there is no justice in that." Are movies no longer made the way they were or have the movie goer's taste change so drastically in this new century to keep in line with the pace - rapid, vapid pace - of life? Or are we seeing the last of a breed of Kehrian reviewers? Don't watch another movie or read another review until you've read at least one review from this book.

If you have ever wanted to dig around in the archives for that perfect Sunday afternoon DVD and first turned to a witty weekly column in the New York Times, then you are already familiar with one of our nation's premier film critics. If you love movies -- and the writers who engage them -- and just happen to have followed two of the highest circulating daily papers in the country, then you probably recognize the name of the intellectually dazzling writer who has been penning pieces on American and foreign films for over thirty years. And if you called the City of the Big Shoulders home in the 1970s or 1980s and relied on those trenchant, incisive reviews from the Chicago Reader and the Chicago Tribune to guide your moviegoing delight, then you know Dave Kehr. When *Movies Mattered* presents a wide-ranging and illuminating selection of Kehr's criticism from the Reader -- most of which is reprinted here for the first time -- including insightful discussions of film history and his controversial Top Ten lists. Long heralded by his peers for both his deep knowledge and incisive style, Kehr developed his approach to writing about film from the auteur criticism popular in the '70s. Though Kehr's criticism has never lost its intellectual edge, it's still easily accessible to anyone who truly cares about movies. Never watered down and always razor sharp, it goes beyond wry observations to an acute examination of the particular stylistic qualities that define the work of individual directors and determine the meaning of individual films. From current releases to important revivals, from classical Hollywood to foreign fare, Kehr has kept us spellbound with his insightful critical commentaries. *When Movies Mattered* will secure his place among our very best writers about all things cinematic.