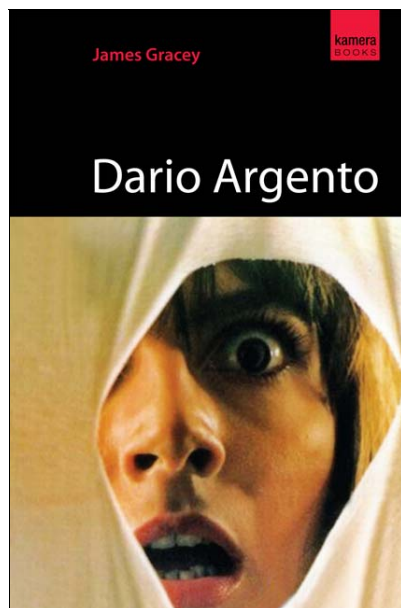


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DARIO ARGENTO

JAMES GRACEY

NEW TITLE

SALES POINTS:

- Comprehensive and up to date look at cult director Dario Argento
- Accessible introduction to a general readership of Argento's work - will also appeal to hardcore fan base
- Recent conclusion to his revered *Three Mothers Trilogy* and a proposed remake of *Suspiria* has sparked an interest in his work again with many critics reevaluating his films and his influence on horror cinema
- His work is often cited in studies of film, especially Italian cinema, on-screen violence, Horror, feminism and auteurism
- Dario Argento is in the UK at the beginning of May for a panel discussion at the Odeon, Covent Garden, part of Cine-Excess III - more at www.cine-excess.co.uk

DESCRIPTION:

The stylistic and bloody excesses of the films of Dario Argento are instantly recognisable. Vivid, baroque and nightmarish, his films lock violent deaths in a twisted embrace with an almost sexual beauty. Narrative and logic are often lost in a bombardment of atmosphere, technical mastery and provocative imagery. It's a body of work which deals explicitly with death and violence, all the while revelling in perversely alluring stylistics and shot through with an unflinching intensity.

Setting the tone with earlier gialli films such as *The Animal Trilogy* and *Deep Red*, Argento has steadily pushed the boundaries; through his elaborately gothic fairytales *Suspiria* and *Inferno*, right up to his more recent contributions to TV's *Masters of Horror* compendium and the conclusion of his Three Mothers trilogy, *Mother of Tears: The Third Mother*. Along the way, his prowling camera work, pounding scores and stylistic bloodshed have only gained in intensity and opulence.

Hailed as one of horror cinemas most significant pioneers, Argento continues to create inimitable and feverishly violent films with a level of artistry rarely seen in horror films. His high profile and mastery of the genre is confirmed with his role as producer on celebrated classics such as George A. Romero's *Dawn of the Dead* and Lamberto Bava's *Demons*, and his work has influenced the likes of Quentin Tarantino, John Carpenter and Martin Scorsese.

BIOGRAPHY:

James Gracey has written for *Film Ireland*, *Alternative Ulster*, *Paracinema* and *Culture Northern Ireland*. He has also contributed to *Drowned in Sound*, *Twisted Ear* and *Eat My Brains*.