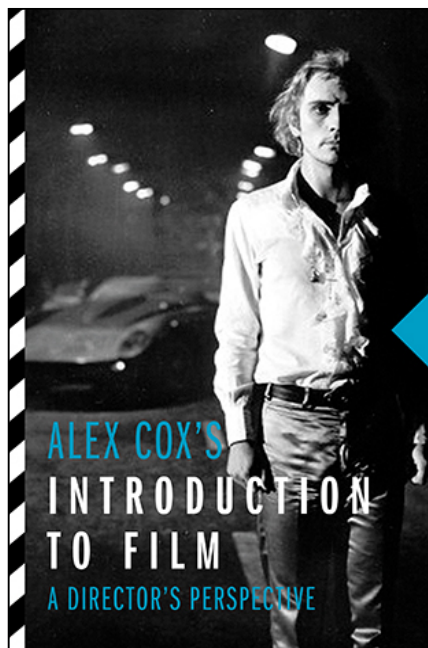




ALEX COX'S INTRODUCTION TO FILM

A Director's Perspective

ALEX COX

MARKETING & SALES POINTS

Alex Cox has written and directed both films and television programmes, his work appearing at Cannes, Berlin and Havana Film Festivals

An Introduction to Film is for aspiring filmmakers, students and people generally interested in grounding themselves in this particular art form

From 1987 to 1994, Alex Cox has presented the cult BBC series *Moviedrome*, bringing unknown or forgotten films to new audiences

He was awarded the Critics' Prize at the Madrid Film Festival in 1986 for the film *Straight to Hell*, which he both directed and co-wrote with Dick Rude

THE BOOK

Picasso apparently said, "when critics get together, they talk about theory. When painters get together, they talk about turpentine." That has been my experience, as far as film and film studies are concerned. Critics, academics, and theoreticians talk theory. That is what they know. Artists talk about their processes in making art. This is my attempt to apply what I know to a beginning study of film.

Emerging filmmakers need to know the basics of their art form: the language of the camera, and lenses, the different crew roles, the formats, the aspect ratios. They also need to know some bare-bones theory: what an auteur is, what montage is, what genres are. Words like these are our currency: they must be known. But, even more urgently, young filmmakers need answers to their questions -- what lens was used? how did they do that effect? who paid for that picture? how did they get it past the censor?

Most important, all filmmakers require serious grounding in film. You cannot be a great artist if you aren't versed in great art. And this doesn't just apply to the cinema.

I believe 100% that a reasonably educated and intelligent person in any country of the world should be able to have a conversation about Luis Buñuel, about Akira Kurosawa, about Stanley Kubrick, about Fellini or Bergman, and talk knowledgeably about at least one of their films. Read this book, watch the films, and you can!

ALEX COX (Location: Ashland, USA)

Maverick British filmmaker **Alex Cox** is responsible for directing a host of acclaimed films from *Sleep Is for Sissies*, *Repo Man*, *Sid & Nancy*, *Straight to Hell*, *Walker* and *Highway Patrolman* to *Death and the Compass*, *Revenger's Tragedy* and *Searchers 2.0*. From 1987 to 1994, he presented the acclaimed BBC TV series 'Moviedrome', bringing unknown or forgotten films to new audiences. He's also the author of *X Films: True Confessions of a Radical Filmmaker*, and has written on the subject of film for publications including *Sight and Sound*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *Film Comment*.



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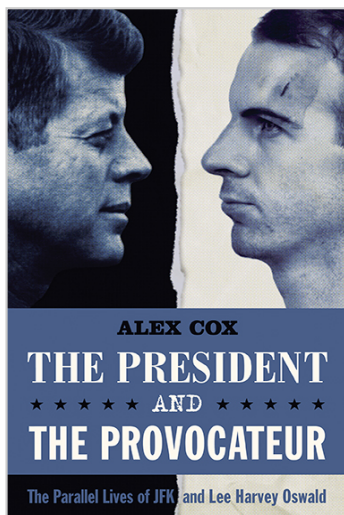
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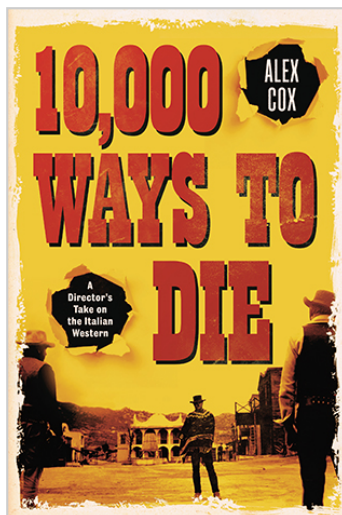
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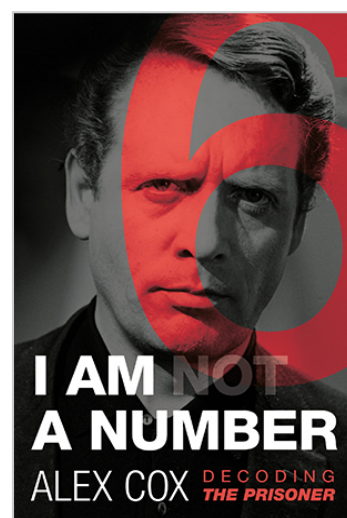
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