

# The Brothers Grim The Films Of Ethan And Joel Coen

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in 1984 joel and ethan coen burst onto the art house film scene with their neo noir blood simple and ever since then they have sharpened the cutting edge of independent film blending black humor and violence with unconventional narrative twists their acclaimed movies evoke highly charged worlds of passion absurdity nightmare realms and petty human failures all the while revealing the filmmakers penchant for visual jokes and

bravura technical strokes their central characters may be blind to reality and individual flaws but their illusions dreams fears and desires map the boundaries of their worlds worlds made stunningly memorable by the coens in the brothers grim the films of ethan and joel coen erica rowell unmasks the filmmakers as prankster mythmakers exploiting and subverting universal storytelling modes to further what seems to be their artistic agenda to elicit laughs often employing satire and allegory the coens movies hold a mirror up to american society allowing viewers to both chuckle and gasp at its absurdities hypocrisies and foibles from business partnerships blood simple the ladykillers to marriage intolerable cruelty to friendship and ethics miller s crossing the breakdowns of relationships are a steady focus in their work often the coens satires put broken social institutions in their cinematic crosshairs exposing cracks in ineffective penal systems raising arizona o brother where art thou unjust justice systems the man who wasn t there a crooked corporate america the hudsucker proxy unnecessary wars the big lebowski a tyrannical hollywood barton fink and the unbridled fatuous pursuit of the american dream fargo while audiences may be excused for missing the duo s social commentary the depth and breadth of the brothers films bespeak an intelligence and cultural acuity that is rich highly topical and hard to pigeonhole

with landmark films such as fargo o brother where art thou blood simple and raising arizona the coen brothers have achieved both critical and commercial success proving the existence of a viable market for small films that are also intellectually rewarding their work has exploded generic conventions amid rich webs of transtextual references r barton palmer argues that the coen oeuvre forms a central element in what might be called postmodernist filmmaking mixing high and low cultural sources and blurring genres like noir and comedy the use of pastiche and anti realist elements in films such as the hudsucker proxy and barton fink clearly fit the postmodernist paradigm palmer argues that for a full understanding of the coen brothers unique position within film culture it is important to see how they have developed a new type of text within general postmodernist practice that palmer terms commercial independent analyzing their substantial body of work from this generic framework is the central focus of this book

these four early works by the internationally lauded filmmaking team deal with the subject for which they are best known corruption and crime in situations that combine the real and the surreal with the hilarious of the scripts included here barton fink an intense look at the psychological ruin of a new york playwright trying to make it in 1940s hollywood is a masterful culmination of these themes

collected interviews with the quirky and distinctive writer director team of such films as *Raising Arizona*, *Intolerable Cruelty* and *Barton Fink*

Joel and Ethan Coen have written and directed some of the most celebrated American films of the last thirty years. The output of their work has embraced a wide range of genres including the neo-noir *Blood Simple* and the man who wasn't there, the absurdist comedy *Raising Arizona* and the violent gangster film *Miller's Crossing*. Whether producing original works like *Fargo* and *Barton Fink* or drawing on inspiration from literature such as Charles Portis' *True Grit* or Cormac McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men*, the brothers put their distinctive stamp on each film. In *The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia*, all aspects of these gifted siblings as writers, directors, producers and even editors in the guise of Roderick Jaynes are discussed. Entries in this volume focus on creative personnel behind the camera including costume designers, art directors and frequent contributors like cinematographer Roger Deakins and composer Carter Burwell. Recurring actors are also represented such as Jeff Bridges, Steve Buscemi, George Clooney, John Goodman, Holly Hunter, Frances McDormand and John Turturro. Each entry is followed by a bibliography of published sources both in print and online. From *Blood Simple* to *Inside Llewyn Davis*, *The Coen Brothers Encyclopedia* is a comprehensive reference on two of the most significant filmmakers of the last three decades. An engaging examination of their work, this volume will appeal to scholars, researchers and fans interested in this creative duo.

Filmmaker brothers Joel and Ethan Coen got their start in the independent film business in 1984 with their debut feature *Blood Simple*, which won the award of Best Dramatic Feature at Sundance in 1985 and was hailed as one of the best films of the year by the National Board of Review. Since their early success, the Coen brothers have built a name for themselves and gone on to create other big name movies such as *Raising Arizona*, *Fargo* and *The Big Lebowski*. This book is a comprehensive account of these four films and *Miller's Crossing*, *Barton Fink* and *The Hudsucker Proxy*. Production information and in-depth analysis and critique are provided as well as discussions on how each movie functions in the broader context of the Coens' work and the themes, strategies and motifs often utilized by the Coens.

*Limelight* is an analysis of the Coen oeuvre through *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000). The authors, German film critics, include a previously unpublished interview with the filmmaking brothers on their off-center work in genres they both satirize and pay tribute to: film noir, horror, screwball comedy and buddy escapade. As Ethan Coen says, we

grew up in america and we tell american stories in american settings within american frames of reference perhaps our way of reflecting our system is more comprehensible to non americans because they already see the system as something alien well illustrated

these three short plays by oscar winning screenwriter coen explore the theme of hell both on earth and in the hereafter clever provocative and engaging these plays showcase yet another talent from one of the most celebrated contemporary writers

fans of fargo the big lebowski no country for old men and other modern classics will enjoy this definitive history of the coen brothers oeuvre indiewire from such cult hits as raising arizona 1987 and the big lebowski 1998 to major critical darlings fargo 1996 no country for old men 2007 and inside llewyn davis 2013 ethan and joel coen have cultivated a bleakly comical instantly recognizable voice in modern american cinema in the coen brothers this book really ties the films together film critic adam nayman carefully sifts through their complex cinematic universe in an effort to plot as he puts it some grand unified theory of coen ness with a combination of biography close analysis and enlightening interviews with key coen collaborators this book honors the films singular mix of darkness and levity and is the definitive exploration of the coen brothers oeuvre

an essential introduction to the world s greatest directing team the coen brothers ethan and joen coen is a comprehensive yet concise and accessible monograph including insightful texts written by some of the world s most respected specialists this guide is richly illustrated with 100 images some of which have rarely been seen before

the coen bros have attracted a wide following and been rewarded with oscars and other honors some of their films are cult favorites and box office hits such as fargo the big lebowski and no country for old men yet the team of filmmaking brothers remains misunderstood in some circles ethan and joel coen deliberately unsettle conventional expectations and raise disturbing questions about human nature while mischievously mixing film genres and styles their films display shocking tonal shifts as they blend comedy and drama and most controversially comedy and violence this potent mélange of themes and stylistic approaches makes the coens films adventurous unpredictable probes into contemporary social anxieties as brilliant satirists they are heirs to preston sturges and billy wilder but they resist easy definition and raise the ire of some critics who like films to

fit more comfortably into preexisting formats film historian and critic joseph mcbride author of acclaimed biographies of frank capra john ford and steven spielberg along with critical studies of orson welles ernst lubitsch and wilder jousts with the coens detractors while defining the filmmakers freshness and originality the quirkily individualistic coens are the kind of personal filmmakers the increasingly conglomerated american cinema rarely fosters anymore and this critical study illuminates their artistic personalities and contributions

from such cult hits as raising arizona 1987 and the big lebowski 1998 to major critical darlings fargo 1996 no country for old men 2007 and inside llewyn davis 2013 ethan and joel coen have cultivated a bleakly comical instantly recognizable voice in modern american cinema in the coen brothers this book really ties the films together film critic adam nayman carefully sifts through their complex cinematic universe in an effort to plot as he puts it some grand unified theory of coen ness the book combines critical text biography close film analysis and enlightening interviews with key coen collaborators with a visual aesthetic that honors the coens singular mix of darkness and levity featuring film stills beautiful and evocative illustrations punchy infographics and hard insight this book will be the definitive exploration of the coen brothers oeuvre

the films of the coen brothers have become a contemporary cultural phenomenon highly acclaimed and commercially successful over the years their movies have attracted increasingly larger audiences and spawned a subculture of dedicated fans shunning fame and celebrity ethan and joel coen remain maverick filmmakers producing and directing independent films outside the hollywood mainstream in a unique style combining classic genres like film noir with black comedy to tell off beat stories about america and the american dream this study surveys oscar winning films such as fargo 1996 and no country for old men 2007 as well as cult favorites including o brother where art thou 2000 and the big lebowski 1998 beginning with blood simple 1984 it examines major themes and generic constructs and offers diverse approaches to the coens enigmatic films pointing to the pulp fiction of dashiell hammett james m cain and raymond chandler the study appreciates the postmodern aesthetics of the coens intertextual creativity

the films of ethan and joel coen have been embraced by mainstream audiences but also have been subject to intense scrutiny by critics and cinema scholars movies such as barton fink the hudsucker proxy and raising arizona represent the filmmakers postmodern tendencies a subject many academics have written about at length but is it enough to reduce their features as expressions of postmodernism or are there other ways of

viewing their work not only their individual films but their entire output as a collective whole in constructing the coens from blood simple to inside llewyn davis allen h redmon looks beyond the postmodern sensibilities of every film written and directed by the coens to find an unexpected range of recurring ideas expressed in and about contemporary film in this volume redmon tackles all of the films in the coen brothers canon by examining among other topics narrative coherence in the man who wasn't there intertextuality in no country for old men and sexuality in burn after reading and o brother where art thou additional chapters look at their films through the prisms of gender studies adaptation studies and a constructivist sensibility weaved throughout their work considering the whole of the coens output as well as many of the topics being discussed in contemporary film studies this book challenges viewers to reexamine their initial responses to these movies by engaging both the familiar and foreign elements in each film constructing the coens will appeal to fans of the brothers cinema but also to students and scholars of film theory adaptation studies queer theory and gender studies ty in burn after reading and o brother where art thou additional chapters look at their films through the prisms of gender studies adaptation studies and a constructivist sensibility weaved throughout their work considering the whole of the coens output as well as many of the topics being discussed in contemporary film studies this book challenges viewers to reexamine their initial responses to these movies by engaging both the familiar and foreign elements in each film constructing the coens will appeal to fans of the brothers cinema but also to students and scholars of film theory adaptation studies queer theory and gender studies considering the whole of the coens output as well as many of the topics being discussed in contemporary film studies this book challenges viewers to reexamine their initial responses to these movies by engaging both the familiar and foreign elements in each film constructing the coens will appeal to fans of the brothers cinema but also to students and scholars of film theory adaptation studies queer theory and gender studies

this anthology presents the story of modern cinema's most dynamic brotherhood duo from their debut neo noir blood simple through the lowlife comedy the big lebowski collected here are articles interviews and reviews of the coens diverse productions including raising arizona barton fink the hudsucker proxy and the oscar winning fargo

script for the motion picture a serious man

this title explores the creative works of famous directors ethan and joel coen films analyzed include o brother

where art thou fargo the big lebowski and true grit clear comprehensive text gives background biographical information of the coen brothers the you critique it feature invites readers to analyze other creative works on their own a table of contents timeline list of works resources source notes glossary and an index are also included aligned to common core standards and correlated to state standards essential library is an imprint of abdo publishing a division of abdo

for more than three decades joel and ethan coen have produced some of the most unique and thought provoking works in modern cinema in broad comedies such as raising arizona violent thrillers like no country for old men and black comedies such as fargo the filmmakers have offered brilliant takes on a variety of film genres one of the most distinctive features of their movies is their skewed view of america itself in the coen brothers america m keith booker discusses feature films produced by the pair since their 1984 debut blood simple the author focuses on how the coen brothers films engage with american cultural history and are embedded in specific geographical settings from new york to los angeles from texas to minnesota the coens capture the essence of real locations from unusual angles which often make the films appear as if they are taking place in an alternate reality in addition many of the brothers films are steeped in america s cultural past from the deep south of the 1930s in o brother where art thou to the greenwich village of the 1960s in inside llewyn davis the coens make particularly effective use of films from hollywood s golden age producing their own updated versions of such genres as film noir the man who wasn t there the western true grit and screwball comedy the hudsucker proxy not to mention their idiosyncratic depictions of hollywood itself in barton fink and hail caesar this book also explores how the coens draw upon cultural phenomena outside of film including literature music and television approaching each film within the framework of ethan and joel s overall vision the coen brothers america provides an entertaining look at the pair s work that will appeal to scholars and fans alike

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