



Martin Scorsese: Interviews (Conversations with Filmmakers Series)

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From the moment he captured the film world's attention with *Mean Streets* (1973), a portrait of life at the fringes of the Mob, it was clear that a dazzling cinematic talent had arrived on the scene. With Robert DeNiro, one of the most talented young actors from this film, Scorsese went on to make some of the greatest American films of the postwar period, including *Taxi Driver* (1976), *Raging Bull* (1980), and *Goodfellas* (1990). A Scorsese film seldom fails to stir controversy, for his devotion to realism has led him to forthrightly depict violence and its frightening randomness in the modern world. His biblical film also created quite a stir. This adaptation of Kazantzakis's *The Last Temptation of Christ* generated outrage among conservative religious leaders.

Scorsese, however, has not limited himself to contemporary, violent urban dramas or new interpretations of biblical subjects. Other widely heralded Scorsese films include *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (1974), *New York, New York* (1977), *The Last Waltz* (1978), *The King of Comedy* (1983), *After Hours* (1985), *The Color of Money* (1986), *Cape Fear* (1991), *The Age of Innocence* (1993), *Casino* (1995), and *Kundun* (1998).

These interviews begin with conversations about the highly autobiographical *Mean Streets* (1973), which first brought Scorsese serious attention, and end with conversations about *Kundun*, an overtly political biography of the Dalai Lama of Tibet, released in early 1998.

"I look for a thematic idea running through my movies, he says, and I see that it's the outsider struggling for recognition. I realize that all my life I've been an outsider, and above all, being lonely but never realizing it."

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Editorial Review

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The University Press of Mississippi's Interview series offers a wealth of information on contemporary writers and filmmakers. This latest installment, devoted to director Martin Scorsese, effectively mixes in-depth, question-and-answer interviews, often from film journals, with narrative profiles from the mainstream press. The combination works well, with the more structured biographical information from the profiles serving as narrative support for the freewheeling answers in the interviews. The chronological arrangement allows the reader to watch Scorsese's distinguished career develop from film to film, as most of the pieces originally appeared in conjunction with the opening of a film. There is some repetition from chapter to chapter, as the interviews appear unedited, but most readers will use this volume for research or browsing. A valuable resource for contemporary film collections. *Ilene Cooper*

From the Inside Flap

Collected interviews with the man who has been called the greatest living American film director

About the Author

Peter Brunette, a professor of English and film studies at George Mason University, is the author of *Roberto Rossellini* and *The Films of Michelangelo Antonioni*. With David Wills he co-authored *Screen/Play: Derrida and Film Theory*.

Users Review

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Bobbie Flores:

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