



Nicolas Winding Refn: The Act of Seeing

By Alan Jones

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For the first time Nicolas Winding Refn, writer, producer and director of the PUSHER films, BRONSON, VALHALLA RISING, DRIVE, ONLY GOD FORGIVES and THE NEON DEMON, trawls through his unique collection of rare American film posters to unfold ways the viewer validates and actualises the presentation of key images into their own personal reality. From the vintage visuals of SPIKED HEELS AND BLACK NYLONS, OBSCENE HOUSE and ALICE IN ACIDLAND to THE TWISTED SEX, TORTURE ME KISS ME and ZERO IN AND SCREAM – to name just a few of the tantalizing film titles showcased – the controversial Danish icon constructs a whole new way of looking at the key artwork and shameless hyperbole thought up in the back alley gutters of the exploitation industry. The masterfully overblown promises and alluring tag-lines were dubious attractions solely devised to persuade the ravished sight to suppress the cool head of reason and tempt it to sit in a dark auditorium to watch other people's lurid lives shockingly unravel. Now the celebrated filmmaker makes complicit voyeurs of us all by editing his exceptional collection of little-seen and vivid front-of-house displays into an extraordinary creation to match the observation sensations explored in his own pioneering screen work. With comprehensive historical context provided for each poster and every production detail meticulously overseen by Winding Refn himself, this book encapsulates everything he has known about eyewitness confrontation on a heartfelt journey into the art and act of seeing. This lavish quarter bound volume has unprecedented production values including silk covered boards and a cloth bound gold embossed slipcase. Nicolas Winding Refn: The Act of Seeing is the first book from the new NWR imprint from FAB Press, a collaboration with cinema's most exciting contemporary talent, Nicolas Winding Refn. It is Nicolas's wish to produce books that focus on iconic rebels in the entertainment industry, presenting to the world high-end art books of the finest possible quality.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Alan Jones founded Film 4 Frightfest, the UK's premier horror film festival, and has authored several books, including Dario Argento: The Man, the Myths and the Magic, published by FAB Press.

Nicolas Winding Refn has worked with Ryan Gosling, Kristin Scott Thomas, Mads Mikkelsen, Tom Hardy, Christina Hendricks and David Beckham, and is currently directing a new feature film starring Elle Fanning and Keanu Reeves.

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THE ACT OF SEEING is a personal aesthetic expression, an album of poster images artfully put together to represent a fantasy world I can never now experience. The cultural environment these films were created in was long gone by the time my family moved to New York in 1978 when I was 8 years old. I was forbidden to walk down 42nd Street because my mother warned me it was such a dangerous and scary place. Of course that completely entranced me, mythologizing the place further, making it even more exciting and alluring. Now that I'm older, and have my hands on these unexpected posters, I'm able to envision what it must have been like to be a compulsive cinemagoer during this thrilling time, then enter that world vicariously in my over-active imagination through my prized items. It's why I present these posters to you now, for you to do the same. ~ Nicolas Winding Refn

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