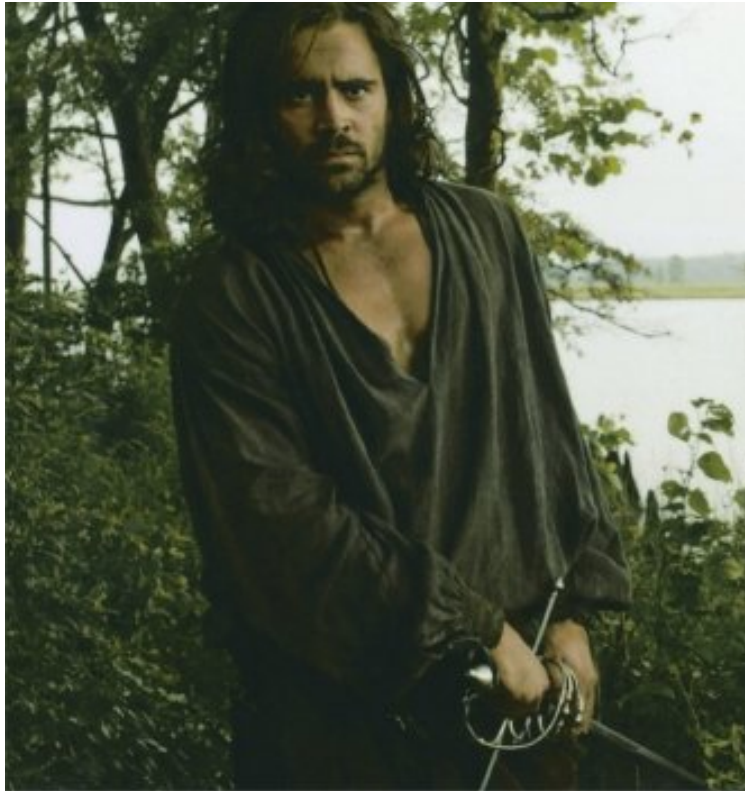


## Terrence Malick and the Thought of Film

*Steven Rybin*

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## TERRENCE MALICK AND THE THOUGHT OF FILM

STEVEN RYBIN

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**Steven Rybin : Terrence Malick and the Thought of Film** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Terrence Malick and the Thought of Film:

Terrence Malick and the Thought of Film explores how the experience of viewing Terrence Malick's films enables imaginative acts of philosophical interpretation. Useful for both professional philosophers interested in film and

scholars of cinema intrigued by philosophy, this book shows the ways Malick's films cast philosophy in new cinematic light.

A painstaking craftsman, Malick has made only a handful of films in his career, but each bears the mark of a deeply individualistic director who makes only films in which he is really invested. He has completed five feature films in all-- he is a meticulous auteur indeed--and this makes him an ideal subject for this detailed, compact book, as each film can have a chapter all to itself. Rybin (Georgia Gwinnett College) offers persuasive readings of *Badlands* (1973), which is based on the Charles Starkweather murder spree in Nebraska; the romantic period drama *Days of Heaven* (1978); the epic WW II narrative *The Thin Red Line* (1998); the underrated *The New World* (2005), which looks at the founding of the American colony at Jamestown, Virginia; and *The Tree of Life* (2011), a family drama set in 1950s Texas, which takes on cosmic overtones as the film progresses. This is a concise, measured, intelligent study of Malick's work, ideal for a course on his films or as an introduction for the general reader. **Summing Up: Highly recommended.** Lower- and upper-division undergraduates; graduate students; professionals; general readers. (CHOICE) Deftly combining theoretical reflection with detailed film analyses, Rybin opens up Malick's unique cinematic worlds from *Badlands* to *The Tree of Life* with skill and subtlety, bringing fresh philosophical insight and fine critical understanding to our appreciation of his cinematic achievements. (Robert Sinnerbrink, Macquarie University) Steven Rybin has written a superbly rich and much needed study of character in the films of Terrence Malick. Taking his cue from the burgeoning field of film-philosophy, Rybin is unhampered by any one philosophical dogma and instead lucidly argues that Malick's films and characters should be viewed as 'companions to thought' through a wide range of philosophical lenses. This book is essential reading for any serious thinker interested in the films of Terrence Malick. (Thomas Deane Tucker, Chadron State College) This book is by far the most comprehensive, thorough, and readable monograph on Terrence Malick's five films. His approach is varied and inclusive, defining and adopting different strategies to engage distinct problems in film criticism and in Malick's cinema. Rybin is as attentive to the details and nuances of Malick's films as he is to the observations and arguments of Malick's other critics and commentators. (Stuart Kendall) About the Author Steven Rybin is assistant professor of film at Georgia Gwinnett College and author of *The Cinema of Michael Mann* (2007).