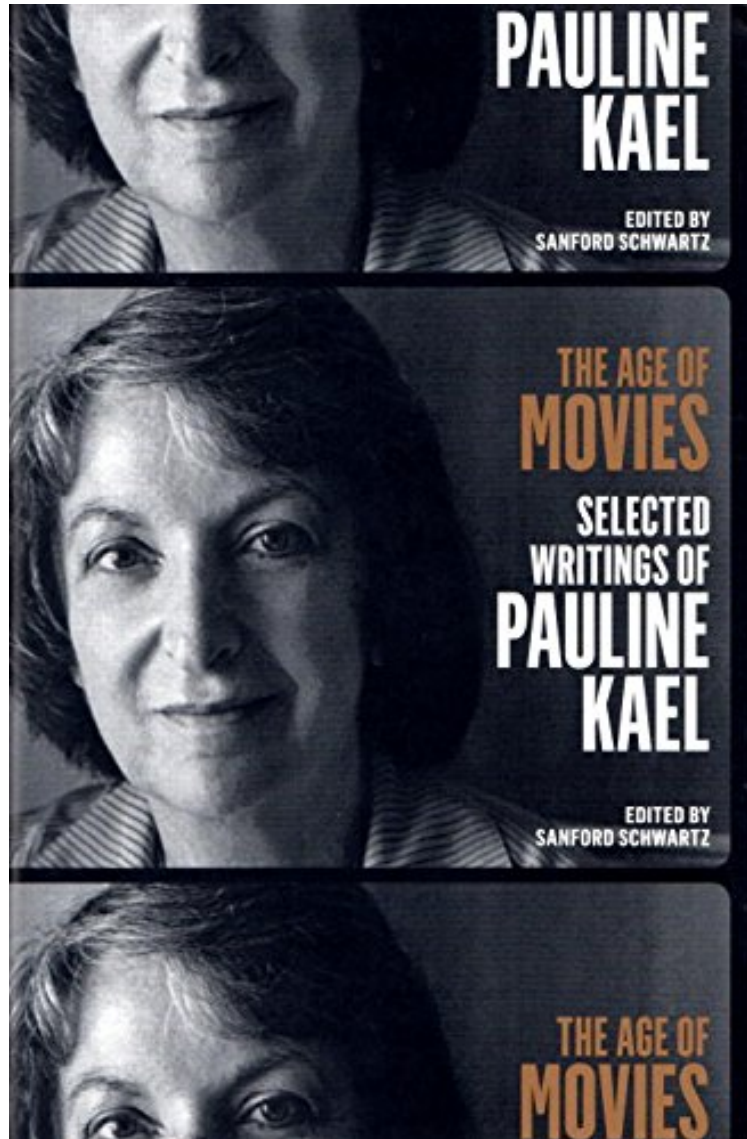


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## The Age of Movies: Selected Writings of Pauline Kael

*Pauline Kael*

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**Pauline Kael : The Age of Movies: Selected Writings of Pauline Kael** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of Movies: Selected Writings of Pauline Kael:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Selective guide to three decades of filmBy Walter H. CombsPauline Kael was one of the few film critics who made a serious effort to place movies their larger cultural context. She succeeded admirably. She was one of the few critics who recognized the importance of ``Bonnie and Clyde" before it was released; was an early supporter of Martin Scorsese, but was not afraid to criticize him when she thought he

overreached; saw through the pretension Kubrick's ``Clockwork Orange" and ``2001"; and loved Truffaut, whom I had never bothered with until I read Kael, and he is now one of my favorite directors. She also wrote cogently and well about the direction of Hollywood, and while she was looking at film in search of high art, she was not afraid to admit enjoying films that didn't meet the standards of high art, but were nevertheless enjoyable. Essential reading for film buffs.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fine CollectionBy JL Manuel'The Age of Movies: Selected Writings of Pauline Kael' provides a comprehensive collection of Kael's writing selected from throughout her career. Those familiar with Kael will (most likely) find their favourite pieces and a whole lot more. Those who have not read her before will have a wonderful selection of her fine critical writing.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great reviewerBy Jesus Torres GonzalezPerhaps the best film critic of all. Not so easy to please but that makes her films analysis even more interesting.

"Film criticism is exciting just because there is no formula to apply," Pauline Kael once observed, "just because you must use everything you are and everything you know." Between 1968 and 1991, as regular film reviewer for The New Yorker, Kael used those formidable tools to shape the tastes of a generation, entrancing readers with her gift for capturing, with force and fluency, the essence of an actor's gesture or the full implication of a cinematic image. Kael called movies "the most total and encompassing art form we have," and she made her reviews a platform for considering both film and the worlds it engages, crafting in the process a prose style of extraordinary wit, precision, and improvisatory grace. To read The Age of Movies, the first new selection in more than a generation, is to be swept up into an endlessly revealing and entertaining dialogue with Kael at her witty, exhilarating, and opinionated best. Her ability to evoke the essence of a great artist-an Orson Welles or a Robert Altman-or to celebrate the way even seeming trash could tap deeply into our emotions was matched by her unwavering eye for the scams and self-deceptions of a corrupt movie industry. Here in this career spanning collection are her appraisals of the films that defined an era-among them Breathless, Bonnie and Clyde, The Leopard, The Godfather, Last Tango in Paris, Nashville-along with many others, some awaiting rediscovery, all providing the occasion for masterpieces of observation and insight, alive on every page.

"Pauline Kael was not only one of our greatest film critics, but one of our best nonfiction prose writers. Her range is on brilliant display in this thrilling collection, reminding us what all the excitement was and still is about." Phillip LopateAbout the AuthorPauline Kael reached national attention in the 1960s, first in a brief stint as critic for The New Republic, finally as a longtime fixture at The New Yorker (1968-1991). She was considered by many to be the most influential American film critic of the last 50 years.She died in September of 2001.