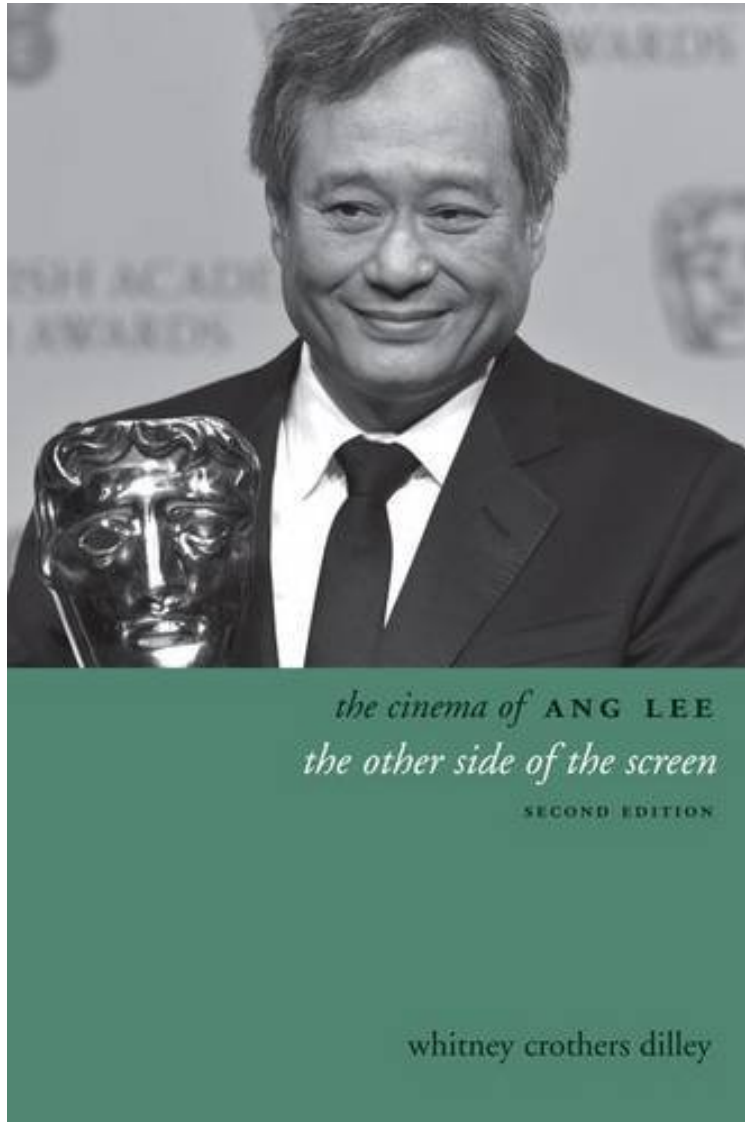


(Mobile ebook) The Cinema of Ang Lee: The Other Side of the Screen (Directors' Cuts)

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Whitney Crothers Dilley

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Whitney Crothers Dilley : The Cinema of Ang Lee: The Other Side of the Screen (Directors' Cuts) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cinema of Ang Lee: The Other Side of the Screen (Directors' Cuts):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Visual and thematic richness of Ang Lee's films further recognized

in this book

By Anthony E. Pomes

In this excellent 2nd edition of Ms. Dilley's first published version of this book, author Whitney Crothers Dilley again distinguishes herself as the first and still-remaining great film-critical voice when it comes to the analyses of various theme and vision that continue to resonate throughout Ang Lee's brilliant and often gloriously unpredictable oeuvre. Dilley's diligent presentation of Ang Lee as one of the more consistent "auteur" filmmakers in world cinema over more than twenty-five years of work is worth the price of the book alone. What makes this "2nd" edition so remarkable, however, is its inclusion and critical discussion of Lee's more recent films: the Chinese-language and "NC-17"-earning erotic WWII-era thriller *LUST/CAUTION* (2007); the freewheeling and vastly-underrated 2009 comedy, *TAKING WOODSTOCK* (based on the acclaimed memoir of the same name by bestselling author Elliot Tiber); and the visually sumptuous and emotional stunning 3-D masterwork *LIFE OF PI* (2012), Lee's masterful adaption of the Yann Martel novel that earned Lee his second Academy Award as "Best Director." Dilley's explication of Lee's filmic texts do much to stretch long and supple threads across the Ang Lee filmography - in many ways, Lee's films show a celebration and love for all manner of nature, whether human and animal, poised alongside a deep and sometimes uncontrollable need for all and any manner of personal freedom. Elements of psychology, philosophy, mythic rites, and moral ambiguities abound in Lee's works as pored over by Ms. Dilley. Her astute perceptions of what Ang Lee captured both in the father/son relationship and visual immersion into comic-book reality throughout his often unfairly-maligned 2003 superhero film *HULK* remain a highlight of this critical study. Even now, as the sluggishly received *TAKING WOODSTOCK* film continues to find and reward fans in what seems destined to become a cult-film scenario, it seems clear to this reviewer that Ang Lee - as with so many artists, film or otherwise - continues to remain above the norm and just beyond the contemporary grasp. For those who wish an even further increased understanding and appreciation of Ang Lee's cinema, the work of Whitney Crothers Dilley stands as the quintessential primer.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An engaging introduction to Ang Lee and his films

By David Ludwig

When I picked up this book, I was already a fan of Ang Lee, but I found my appreciation for this gifted, risk-taking director deepening as I read Dilley's thoughtful and well-researched exploration of the man and his films. In the book's first two chapters, Dilley perceptively reveals how, especially in his early films, Lee simultaneously draws on and examines Chinese culture and how, in all of his films, he addresses universal themes that touch people everywhere. Equally discerning in these chapters is Dilley's wide-ranging discussion of modern Taiwanese and Chinese cinema, the influence that other directors have had on Lee as well as his own impact on Asian cinema since *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. In the remaining chapters, Dilley explores each of Lee's films in depth -- from *Pushing Hands* to *Life of Pi* -- revealing their distinctive features, their autobiographical nature, and Lee's tremendous story-telling ability. In this book, Dilley is as honest in her analysis of Lee's films as the director himself has been in bringing his personal vision to the screen, even when that meant exploring very challenging issues. For Ang Lee fans and film-lovers in general, this book is well worth reading.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Definitive Study of Ang Lee

By Net Shopper

In this, the second edition of *The Other Side of the Screen*, Whitney Crothers Dilley once again gives voice to one of the truly inspirational filmmakers working today, Ang Lee. In straightforward yet in-depth chronological fashion, this scholarly treatise delves into each of Ang Lee's films, showing us common themes of family, culture, and identity; conversely, Dilley informs as to how Lee's directorial range cannot be confined to a single culture or genre, as he uses visual metaphor to tell his story independent of dialogue. This scholarly second edition includes later works *Lust/Caution* (2007), *Taking Woodstock* (2009), and *Life of Pi* (2012). *The Other Side of the Screen* shows Lee's ability to penetrate the essence of whatever subject he tackles, no more so as Academy Award winner for Best Director to such disparate films as *Brokeback Mountain* and *Life of Pi*. Along with copious notes and extensive bibliography, Dilley gives us a plethora of detail to each Ang Lee film: prior to taking on *Sense and Sensibility*, he had never before read Jane Austen's work; how Lee most identified with the female lead in *Lust/Caution*, drew inspiration from her, and became a motive for making the film. And this from screenwriter/producer and longtime collaborator James Schamus: [As a Director] Ang is, like the emotions his films elicit, everywhere and nowhere. For anyone even vaguely familiar with the norms of behaviour in the film industry, Ang is a genuine anomaly. Enjoy this book, enjoy this anomaly. As Dilley states, Ang Lee elevates his films to a moral and spiritual level, and cinema to art.

Born in Taiwan, Ang Lee is one of cinema's most versatile and daring directors. His ability to cut across cultural, national, and sexual boundaries has given him recognition in all corners of the world, the ability to work with complete artistic freedom whether inside or outside of Hollywood, and two Academy Awards for Best Director. He has won astounding critical acclaim for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), which transformed the status of martial arts films across the globe, *Brokeback Mountain* (2005), which challenged the reception and presentation of homosexuality in mainstream cinema, and *Life of Pi* (2012), Lee's first use of groundbreaking 3D technology and his first foray into complex spiritual themes. In this volume, the only full-length study of Lee's work, Whitney Crothers Dilley analyzes all of his career to date: Lee's early Chinese trilogy films (including *The Wedding Banquet*, 1993, and *Eat Drink Man Woman*, 1994), period drama (*Sense and Sensibility*, 1995), martial arts (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, 2000), blockbusters (*Hulk*, 2003), and intimate portraits of wartime psychology, from the Confederate side of

the Civil War (*Ride with the Devil*, 1999) to Japanese-occupied Shanghai (*Lust/Caution*, 2007). Dilley examines Lee's favored themes such as father/son relationships and intergenerational conflict in *The Ice Storm* (1997) and *Taking Woodstock* (2007). By looking at the beginnings of Lee's career, Dilley positions the filmmaker's work within the roots of the Taiwan New Cinema movement, as well as the larger context of world cinema. Using suggestive readings of both gender and identity, this new study not only provides a valuable academic resource but also an enjoyable read that uncovers the enormous appeal of this acclaimed director.

Dilley not only provides an in-depth overview of Ang Lee's contribution to film, but also gives crucial contextualization for East-West film studies and theoretical approaches, as well as providing careful study of significant themes in Lee's personal life which molded him as a film director. This is an enormous amount of territory to cover. Dilley does it well with scholarly rigor in a tone of exploration and wonder. (Barbara Kline, Seattle Pacific University) *The Cinema of Ang Lee* is the most comprehensive study of Ang Lee and all the films directed by him to date. It tells the extraordinary story of a Taiwan-born Chinese director within the global contexts of diaspora, transnationalism, Chinese-language cinema, American cinema, and world cinema. The book is full of interesting details, and is written in a lucid, accessible style that will be appreciated by readers and moviegoers interested in this director. (Sheldon Lu, University of California at Davis) Writing about film is no easy task and writing about great film even harder. Ang Lee's films include not only three Academy Award winners, *The Life of Pi*, *Brokeback Mountain*, and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, but also less familiar masterpieces like *Lust/Caution*, *Ride with the Devil*, *The Ice Storm*, and *Eat Drink Man Woman*. Whitney Dilley's study of Ang Lee's art is written with remarkable clarity, insight, and compassion. It is a model of fine film literature. (Jerome Silbergeld, Princeton University) Recommended. All readers. (Choice) About the Author Whitney Crothers Dilley is professor in the Department of English with a dual appointment in the Graduate School of Gender Studies at Shih Hsin University in Taipei, Taiwan. She is also editor, with Peng-hsiang Chen, of *Feminism/Femininity in Chinese Literature*.