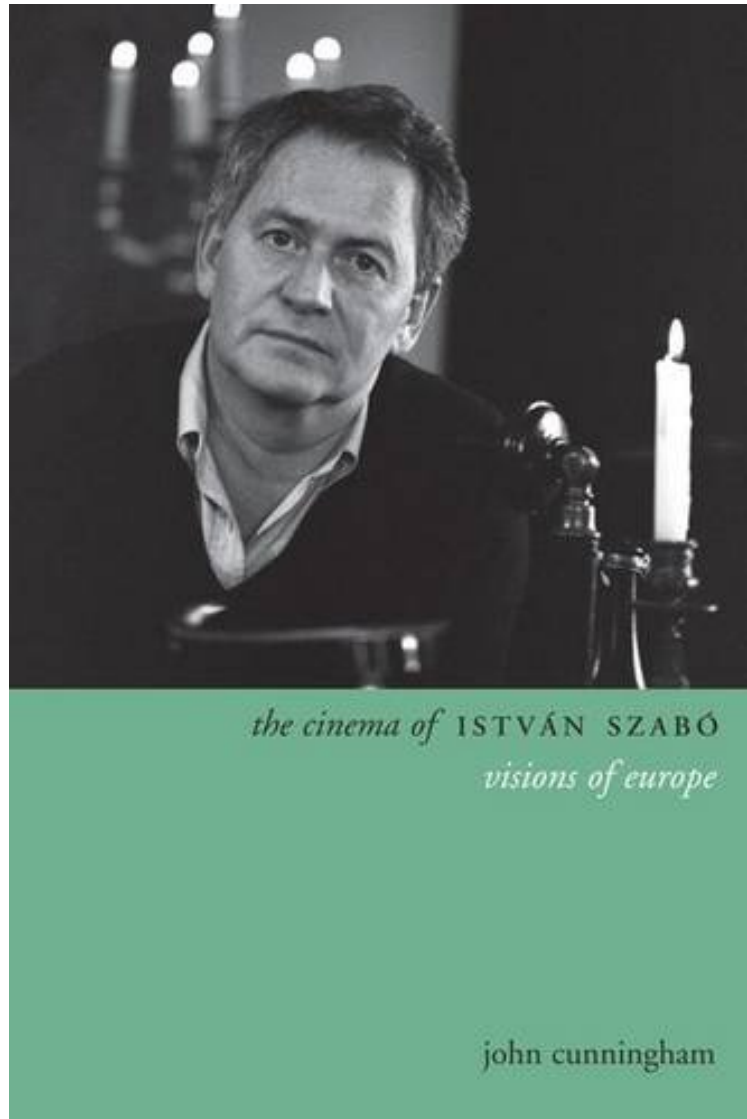


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The Cinema of Istvn Szab: Visions of Europe (Directors' Cuts)

John Cunningham

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John Cunningham : The Cinema of Istvn Szab: Visions of Europe (Directors' Cuts) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cinema of Istvn Szab: Visions of Europe (Directors' Cuts):

Istvn Szab is one of Hungary's most celebrated and best-known film directors, and the only Hungarian to have won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, for Mephisto (1981). In a career spanning over five decades Szab

has relentlessly examined the place of the individual in European history, particularly those caught up in the turbulent events of Central Europe and his own native Hungary. His protagonists struggle to find a place for themselves, some meaning in their lives, security and a sense of being, against a background of two world wars (Colonel Redl, Confidence), the Holocaust (Sunshine), the Hungarian Uprising and the Cold War (Father, 25 Fireman's Street, Taking Sides). This is the first English-language study of all his feature films and uses material from interviews with Szab and his collaborators. Also included are chapters on his formative years, including his time at the famous Budapest Film Academy and the relationship of the state to the film industry in Hungary.

About the Author John Cunningham is the author of *Hungarian Cinema: From Coffee House to Multiplex* (2005) and many other articles and essays on Eastern European and particularly Hungarian cinema. He is now retired, but most recently taught Film Studies at Sheffield Hallam University, UK.