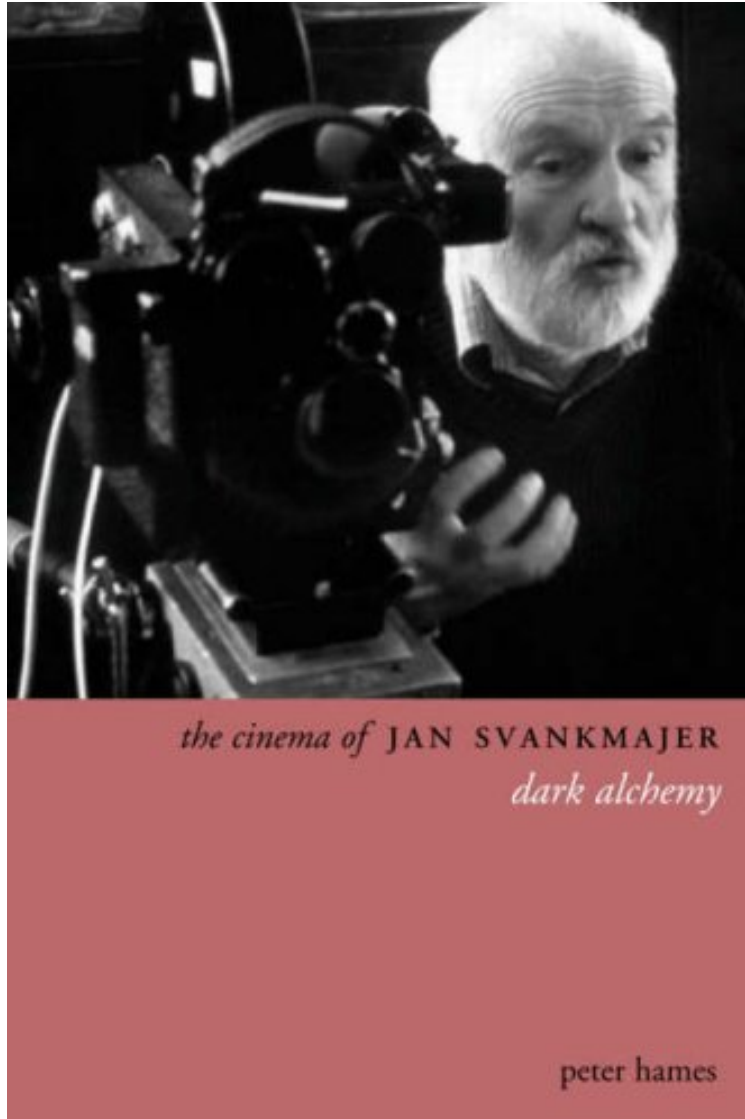


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## The Cinema of Jan Svankmajer: Dark Alchemy (Directors' Cuts)

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**From Brand: Wallflower Press : The Cinema of Jan Svankmajer: Dark Alchemy (Directors' Cuts)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cinema of Jan Svankmajer: Dark Alchemy (Directors' Cuts):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good critical overview of Svankmajer's films By P. Yocum This book collects a number of critical essays about the filmmaker Jan Svankmajer and his work. I found Peter Hames' introductory essay (in which he provides an overview of Czech film history and the origins of the Czech surrealist group) and interview with Svankmajer particularly interesting. I withhold one star for lack of variety. There is a lot of

repetition about mannerism, surrealism, and puppets throughout the essays. That's not to say these aren't all important aspects of Svankmajer's work, but a little critical variation would have been nice. Nonetheless, it is an interesting read and contains a few essays that are frequently cited in other critical works about Svankmajer--particularly the essay by O'Pray--so it was nice to finally read them in their entirety rather than merely as fragmentary quotes in other essays. The short piece by Svankmajer himself--"Decalogue"--is also a lovely little gem hidden in this book.

The Cinema of Jan Svankmajer explores the legacy of this legendary Czech surrealist filmmaker, a key influence on directors such as Terry Gilliam and Tim Burton, and one of the greatest animators in cinema history. This updated second edition still the only full-length study of his work features contributions from scholars and colleagues within the Czech Surrealist movement, as well as a new chapter on Svankmajer's feature films and an extended interview with Svankmajer himself. This volume is required reading for all budding animators and disciples of surrealism.