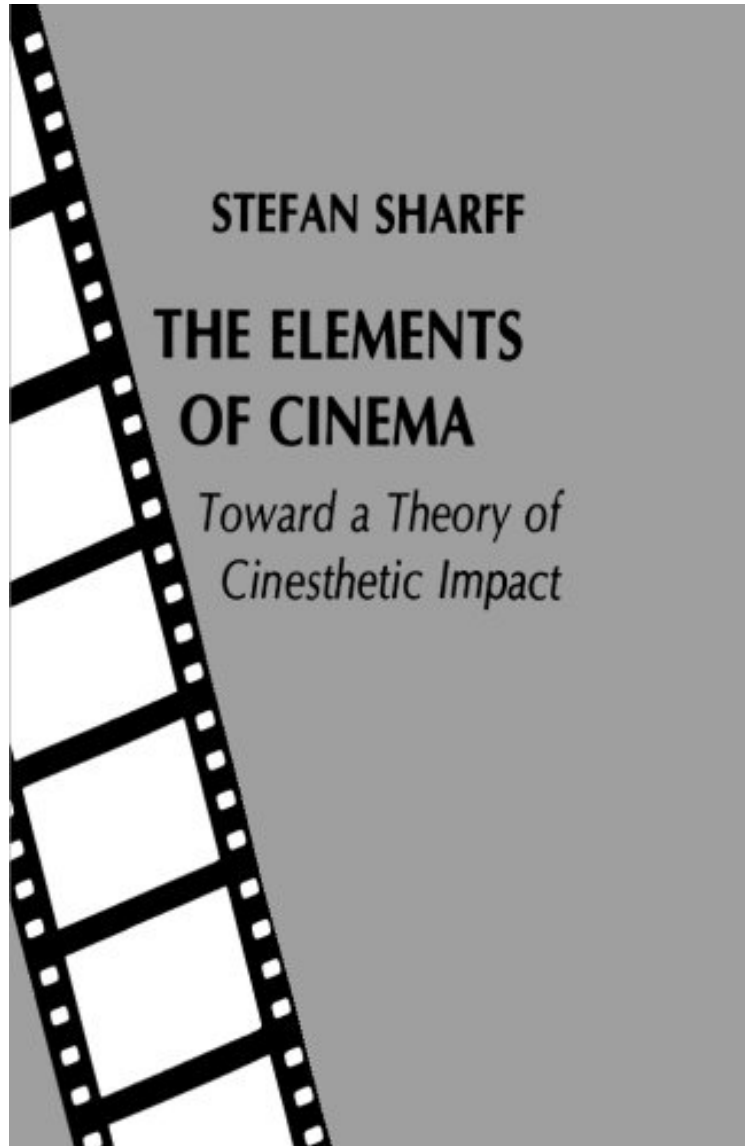


The Elements of Cinema

Stefan Sharff

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Stefan Sharff : The Elements of Cinema before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Elements of Cinema:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Film Theory: Day 1 By R. Blocher Start here. Sharff deconstructed 300+ films to understand the mechanisms that made the best scenes work. The great directors don't just "wing it". They have easily identifiable techniques for constructing scenes. Sharff lays them out here in easy-to-digest sections with lots of storyboards from well-known films to support his arguments. Understanding these tools will help you

better identify why a great scene works and, if you're trying to create them yourself, help you anticipate the tool you need for your own work. He worked with Hitch. The man knows his stuff. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good exploration of 8 basic elements/structures/patterns By K.M.M.KI have been looking for cinesthetic book lately. I got this book in used books section. It's about 300 movies (Mostly before 90's) analysis and extracting the 8 basic structures/elements/patterns followed in most of the movies. The explanation is more on theory and analysis of how they did it. It strictly goes by 8 elements author trying to discuss with some movie clips (story boards) and cinesthetics to follow while using these elements. Here are 8 basic models of structures: 1) Separation-- Fragmentation of scene into single images in alternation-- A,B,A,B,A,B etc 2) Parallel Action-- Two or more narrative lines running simultaneously and presented by alternation between scenes. 3) Slow Discloser-- The gradual introduction of pictorial information within a single shot, or several 4) Familiar Image-- a stabilizing anchor image periodically reintroduced without variations 5) Moving camera-- Used in scenes without cuts 6) Multi-angularity-- a series of shots of contrasting angles and compositions (including reverse and mirror images) 7) Master shot discipline-- a more traditional, Hollywood film structure 8) Orchestration-- The arrangement of the various other elements of structure throughout the film. I highly recommend this for introductory level of cinesthetics. I could not stop reading this book. Go for yours. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By kg Great book, life lessons from great minds.

Beginning with the proposition that there exist uniquely cinematic elements of meaning and structure, Stefan Sharff clearly and systematically lays the foundation for "literacy" in cinema sensitivity to the aesthetic elements intrinsic only to film. Sharff presents the basic elements of structure, modes of expression, and rules which he argues create a specific "language" and "syntax" of cinema.

Sharff's compact, lucid treatise is full of practical film-maker's points as well as intriguing theoretical notions. He's as cogent at explaining why a good film 'phrase' must contain a minimum of three shots as he is in giving a defense of master shot discipline, which can be elegant in the right hands (Lubitsch's?). From the Back Cover Stefan Sharff's *The Elements of Cinema* comes to the advanced film student-- indeed to all serious readers on film-- as an inestimably valuable tool. About the Author Stefan Sharff has produced and directed more than sixty films, including two feature-length works, and several series for public television. He has received numerous international awards for his work including the Grand Prix at Vienna. He is currently a professor of film in Columbia University's School of the Arts.