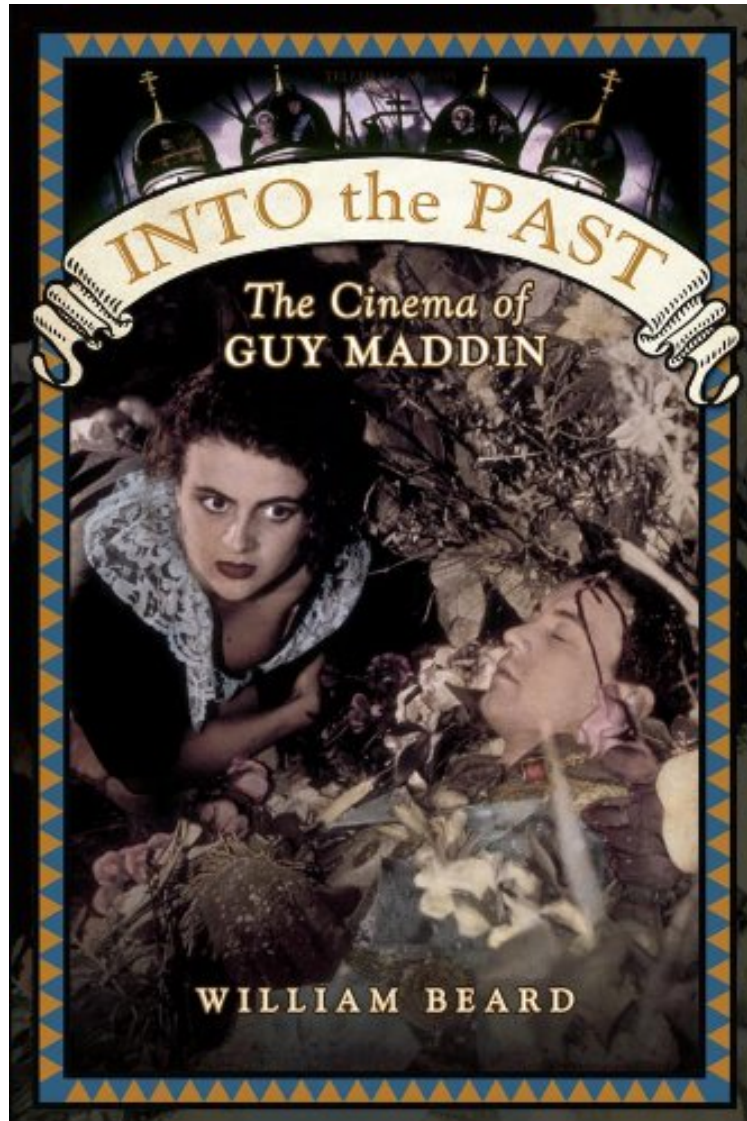


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Into the Past: The Cinema of Guy Maddin

William Beard

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At times as obscure as Maddin's films themselves and always as passionate, Mr. Beard is a great resource and I'm grateful for his work. He is certainly prone to idolatry, but I don't blame him: Maddin is a academe's dream. So

much to chew on, so many colors, so much to interpret. Mr. Beard has done quite the job. 2 of 13 people found the following review helpful. wrong, fix the priceBy HotrodimusThe ebook revolution is underway. Indefensible pricing for the rights to view a digital file vs. the rights to own, lend, and re-sell a physical item made of paper. Should be \$9.99 or less.

Guy Maddin started making films in his back yard and on his kitchen table. Now his unique work, which relies heavily on such archaic means as black and white small-format cinematography and silent-film storytelling, premieres at major film festivals around the world and is avidly discussed in the critical press. *Into the Past* provides a complete and systematic critical commentary on each of Maddin's feature films and shorts, from his 1986 debut film *The Dead Father* through to his highly successful 2008 full-length 'docu-fantasia' *My Winnipeg*. William Beard's extensive analysis of Maddin's narrative and aesthetic strategies, themes, influences, and underlying issues also examines the origins and production history of each film. Each of Maddin's projects and collaborations showcase his gradual evolution as a filmmaker and his singular development of narrative forms. Beard's close readings of these films illuminate, among other things, the profound ways in which Maddin's art is founded in the past - both in the cultural past, and in his personal memory.

Into the Past is an impressive in-depth look at all of the major works in the Maddin inventory and more than a glance at almost everything else Maddin has ever produced. This immaculate achievement comprises a close set of readings and analysis that could only have been driven by a scholar happily lost in the funhouse of the material. (Noreen Golfman, *Literary of Canada*) 'To use a culinary metaphor, *Into the Past* is a grand entree; on which the chef has expanded a deal of thought and time. In terms of Maddin's work, Beard is the master chef and *Into the Past* his pie; ce de reacute;sistance.' (George Melnyk *Great Plains Quarterly*, Spring 2011) 'Canada's most original and enigmatic filmmaker has found a superb interlocutor. William Beard demonstrates his deep and broad understanding of film history in these detailed, incisive, heartfelt, and sometimes playful interpretations of Guy Maddin's personal and artistic life.' (Scott Forsyth, Department of Film, York University) 'It seems entirely possible that with *Into the Past*, Guy Maddin has found his most committed exegete. Not only is William Beard deeply invested in the Maddin oeuvre; he appears to have studied every available scrap in his filmography and compiled an impressive array of production information. For anyone seeking guidance in the Maddin labyrinth, Beard offers not only a treasure chest, but a map showing us the way to many of the jewels.' (Jonathan Rosenbaum, author of *Essential Cinema: On the Necessity of Film Canons and Discovering Orson Welles*) About the Author William Beard is a professor and film studies program director in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta.