

[FREE] Jerry Lewis (Contemporary Film Directors)

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Chris Fujiwara


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Chris Fujiwara : Jerry Lewis (Contemporary Film Directors) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jerry Lewis (Contemporary Film Directors):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Long Overdue but Worth the WaitBy Carver GreenFujiwara delves into Lewis's films with the same intensity other film scholars have reserved for the works of Antonioni, Bergman, and Tarkovsky. However heavy-handed the approach may seem, the films stand up to it. There are times when Fujiwara takes a page or so to say what might be summed up in a sentence, but the writing is compelling, and it may be that no one writing in English has demonstrated, to date, a keener grasp of the tensions inherent in Lewis's art. The lengthy interview at the end of the book shows us the Lewis his detractors will no doubt refuse to recognize until after he's

passed from our world: a man whose art springs from his heart and from his guts, as adept at film technique as Alfred Hitchcock, and with a vision so distinctive it's no wonder so many standard comedy lovers in the U.S. look at his self-directed works as works gone wrong. "I was very conscious," he says, "of doing a specific thing with my work that I have to admit to you was received by people like you on a much higher level than I had anticipated. In other words, the work that I was doing I thought was as good as I could do, but I never put it in a place where I thought I'd get eight best-director-of-the-year awards around the world. I mean, the first one shook me, and I got shook every time I got one. It was really incredible." For a self-professed egomaniac, Lewis shows himself (as usual when his quotes are kept in context) to be exceptionally self-deprecating. Above all, he's fearless at revealing himself, both in person and through his art, as a complex individual for whom laughter is a means of keeping sane, even drawing on his dark side and finding comedy there according to the demands of his work. Along with Frank Krutnik's *Inventing Jerry Lewis* and Lewis's own *The Total Film-Maker*, this is the best book on Lewis I've read (though I have a soft spot also for Richard Gehman's *THAT KID*, which follows Lewis through a span of several months in the 60s, just before his career began its box office decline). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Gordon Nale Good book. Good info. A welcome addition to my library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent analysis of Jerry's films!! By HisArtisticDaughter58A very good analysis, without being overly intellectual, of Jerry Lewis' films! I recommend it to Jerry Lewis fans!!

Well known for his slapstick comedic style, Jerry Lewis has also delighted worldwide movie audiences with a directing career spanning five decades. One of American cinema's great innovators, Lewis made unmistakably personal films that often focused on an ideal masculine image and an anarchic, manic acting out of the inability to assume this image. Films such as *The Bellboy*, *The Errand Boy*, *Three on a Couch*, and *The Big Mouth* present a series of thematic variations on this tension, in which such questions as how to be a man, how to be popular, and how to maintain relationships are posed within frameworks that set up a liberating and exhilarating confusion of roles and norms. *The Nutty Professor* and *The Patsy* are especially profound and painful examinations of the difficulty experienced by Lewis's character in reconciling loving himself and being loved by others. With sharp, concise observations, Chris Fujiwara examines this visionary director of self-referential comedic masterpieces. The book also includes an enlightening interview with Lewis that offers unique commentary on the creation and study of comedy.

From Booklist The lionization of Jerry Lewis's films by French critics has long been a source of amusement to Americans, who mostly consider his movies, hugely popular though they may have been in the 1950s and '60s, puerile and unfunny. But Fujiwara, author of invaluable critiques of Otto Preminger and Jacques Tourneur, makes a solid case for Lewis as a genuine auteur, picking up on motifs, such as the aloof partner figures that evoke Lewis's erstwhile cohort, Dean Martin, and stylistic devices that run throughout his oeuvre. Fujiwara finds a complexity and adventurousness in Lewis's work that may not be apparent to casual viewing and that was undoubtedly missed by the vast audiences for them in Lewis's heyday, and he blames Lewis's professional eclipse on a directorial style "too drastic, uncompromising, and strong" for Hollywood. A lengthy 2003 interview with Lewis confirms how seriously the comedian views his filmmaking. Fujiwara's insights should provoke readers to reassess Lewis's considerable body of work or, at least, to add *The Nutty Professor* to their Netflix queues. -- Gordon Flagg "Excellent."--The New York Times "The most eloquent advocacy [Jerry Lewis has] received on his own shores for decades."--NBC New York