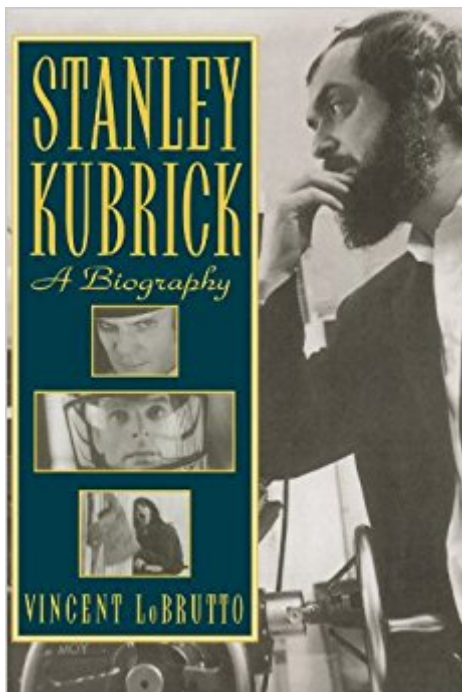


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Stanley Kubrick: A Biography



Synopsis

Stanley Kubrick, director of the acclaimed films *Path of Glory*, *Spartacus*, *Lolita*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *2001: Space Odyssey*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Shining*, and *Full Metal Jacket*, is arguably one of the greatest American filmmakers. Yet, despite being hailed as "a giant" by Orson Welles, little is known about the reclusive director. Stanley Kubrick's the first full-length study of his life is based on assiduous archival research as well as new interviews with friends, family, and colleagues. Film scholar Vincent LoBrutto provides a comprehensive portrait of the director, from his high school days, in the Bronx and his stint as a photographer for *Look* magazine, through the creation of his wide-ranging movies, including the long-awaited *Eyes Wide Shut*. The author provides behind-the-scenes details about writing, filming, financing, and reception of the director's entire output, paying close attention to the technical innovations and to his often contentious relationships with actors. This fascinating biography exposes the enigma that is Stanley Kubrick while placing him in context of film history.

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Customer Reviews

In 1962, an MGM trailer teased its audience by asking "How Did They Ever Make a Movie Out of *Lolita*?" Readers of this book, which recounts the life of *Lolita*'s director, might ask, "How Did They Ever Write a Biography of Stanley Kubrick?" Kubrick is the most reclusive of celebrities, a man who seems mysterious even to those who have known and worked with him. Vincent LoBrutto's engrossing and beautifully researched biography succeeds in tracing this meticulous and brilliant

visionary from his childhood and early career as a photographer for Look magazine to his creation of masterpieces such as *Dr. Strangelove*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *A Clockwork Orange*, and *Full Metal Jacket*. LoBrutto concludes his book by discussing projects that have not yet been realized: *Eyes Wide Shut*, a film about sexual obsession, the Holocaust drama *Aryan Papers*, and the most eagerly awaited of Kubrick's prospective movies, the science fiction film *A. I.* --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Despite making only 12 feature films in 40 years, Stanley Kubrick (b. 1928) is arguably the greatest living American filmmaker, the principal creative force behind such movies as *Paths of Glory*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *A Clockwork Orange* and *The Shining*. He is famous for his reclusiveness and eccentricity. Although this biography falls short of its stated purpose to be the first complete account of Kubrick's private life, it succeeds in presenting a convincing portrait of a man who is utterly devoted to every aspect of filmmaking, down to poster design. LoBrutto (Elia Kazan: Film Director), a film professor at the School of Visual Arts in N.Y.C., provides an exhaustively researched and detailed account of the making of Kubrick's films, including long interviews with many of the actors, writers and film craftsmen who have worked with the director over the years. Kubrick comes across as a soft-spoken tyrant in full command of every detail who somehow manages to win and keep the respect of those who work for him. For the true film buff, there's an astonishing amount of technical information, but there's also a good deal of illuminating backstage human interest?Kubrick cutting Kirk Douglas's final close-up in *Spartacus* as a joke, beating George C. Scott at chess between takes of *Dr. Strangelove*, asking Malcolm McDowell if he knew any songs he might sing during the rape scene in *A Clockwork Orange*. The tone of the book is a bit gee-whiz at times, but it's hard to fault LoBrutto for that: from the evidence here, Kubrick's boundless energy and passion for film are as breathtaking as the best of his movies. Photos and filmography.

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Disappointing. Obviously not enough access in depth to people who knew Kubrick. So, early part of book, say, is filled with his activities in school, stuff taken from the yearbook mainly, and gone on much too long; or when he joins *Life* (or maybe *Look*, I forget) his assignments and photos are gone over one by one for many too many pages. And what is missing is any intimate sense of his, his marriages, children, mostly a blank here. We know he is a perfectionist, repeated on every page, does 5,000 takes on every scene, repeated on every page, but that mainly actors loved him because he brought out the depth of a performance, repeated on every page. Still, some good

things here in so many pages.

I've read this book for the first time in the first semester of 1998, when Kubrick was still alive, finishing his latest film, "Eyes Wide Shut". You get a feeling like if you were following Kubrick since he was born until his latest film (in the case of this book at its release time, "Full Metal Jacket"). I'd highly recommend this book for anyone seriously thinking into pursuing a filmmaking career - besides, Kubrick himself liked very much this book, just Google about this.

Upfront: I'm not an expert, but I've been a fan of Kubrick and his films for decades. Stanley Kubrick is a remarkable subject but I hate the biographies that fawn over him as some perfect god-like wunderkind. What's the truth about Stanley Kubrick? Lobrutto does a good job here relying on interviews from people who worked with or knew Kubrick personally, that are mined from a variety of sources, and overall provide the most detailed and best documented personal history I've read to date. A clearer portrait emerges of who Stanley Kubrick was and how he accomplished some of his filmmaking art. I believe Lobrutto shoots straight most of the time - and even includes some of the dark side of Kubrick's obsessive work ethic, but his bias is more often: jaw-dropping awe over Stanley Kubrick the Superman. In any event this is a must-read for any serious student of Stanley Kubrick. It contains so much amazing stuff that I felt compelled to buy and own it - so I could use it as a reference work - and savor some of the more fascinating pieces of the Kubrick puzzle. I wish there were several more good books on Kubrick but I can only recommend one: Kubrick by Michael Herr. Maybe some day...

A good read. The man was a genius. I enjoyed the book from page one. I've watched several documentaries on Kubrick, and the book followed from what I've seen to a T.

Grandson liked it.

Arrived on time... loved the book...

Thank You!!

I read tons of biographies, and I'm deeply interested in film. But this has to be the most grating, poorly-constructed book I've ever attempted to finish. Certainly, there's a great amount of detail here

on each of Kubrick's films, and I enjoyed finding out about it...as opposed to reading it. The problem is that Lobrutto writes as if he's doing nothing but converting each production's daily call sheets into paragraphs. There's no rhythm whatsoever, smooth transitions into new subjects are virtually non-existent, and the amount of detail grows absolutely mind-numbing. Random tidbits - like how blood was made to appear on Kirk Douglas's chest during a battle in "Spartacus" (to give one example off the top of my head) - are crammed into paragraphs as if they dropped out of the sky, and this sort of thing happens hundreds of times over. It's endless. Have you ever wondered what Kubrick's parents' exact address was in the 1960s? Well, it's here. You also get to find out what they left in their wills for each of their children. One hopes the book never gets converted to video. I have no interest in watching Kubrick's colonoscopies...each and every one of them, with monotone narration outlining the Great Man's dietary habits. (Two stars for the information. Or maybe 1 1/2 for the information and 1/2 for the book's binding.)

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