



## **Jane Campion: Cinema, Nation, Identity (Contemporary Approaches to Film and Media Series)**

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In *Jane Campion: Cinema, Nation, Identity* a diverse group of contributors challenge the view that Campion's body of work lacks coherence or unity to instead examine the important characteristics and themes that underlie it. Editors Hilary Radner, Alistair Fox, and Irène Bessi re have compiled rich, original scholarship on Campion's oeuvre to probe issues previously neglected by scholars-like her debt to New Zealand sources and her personal views of family dynamics-and those that benefit from additional insight-such as her place in the feminist filmmaking tradition. This volume also investigates Campion's distinct cinematic style in light of these issues to examine the source of her enduring cross-cultural and international appeal.

Contributors in the first section explore the creation of subjectivity and identity in Campion's films, which include well-known works like *The Piano* and *Holy Smoke*, to trace the unique perspectives of Campion's characters and Campion herself as director. In the second section, essays analyze Campion's close relationship with literature and argue that the singular vision in her literary adaptations stems from her New Zealand background and her personal mythology. Contributors in the third section argue that while Campion devotes considerable attention to the evocation of feminine internal space, she also uses the symbolic potential of her external physical locations to register what is taking place in the inner life of her characters and reflect their search for personal fulfillment. A final group of essays presents a variety of responses to Campion's films, demonstrating that Campion is a highly personal and idiosyncratic director who nonetheless manages to fascinate viewers across a broad cultural spectrum.

Taken together, contributors in *Jane Campion: Cinema, Nation, Identity* present a compelling analysis of Campion's status as a leading female filmmaker with close attention to her distinctive cinematic style and particular *mise-en-sc ne*. The collective nature of this volume will appeal to students and teachers of film, literature, and gender studies, as well as fans of Campion's work.

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