



## A Companion to Jean Renoir

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François Truffaut called him, simply, ‘the best’. Jean Renoir is a towering figure in world cinema and fully justifies this monumental survey that includes contributions from leading international film scholars and comprehensively analyzes Renoir’s life and career from numerous critical perspectives.

- New and original research by the world’s leading English and French language Renoir scholars explores stylistic, cultural and ideological aspects of Renoir’s films as well as key biographical periods
- Thematic structure admits a range of critical methodologies, from textual analysis to archival research, cultural studies, gender-based and philosophical approaches
- Features detailed analysis of Renoir’s essential works
- Provides an international perspective on this key auteur’s enduring significance in world film history

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“Phillips and Vincendeau’s volume is intelligently organized, extremely comprehensive, and generously illustrated with images from many of the films. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionalns.” (*Choice*, 1 January 2014)

### Review

“Alastair Phillips and Ginette Vincendeau have brought together essays that bring new perspectives to both the best-known and the lesser-known of Renoir’s films. Both French cinema specialists and viewers new to Renoir’s work will find much of interest in this outstanding collection.”

*Judith Mayne, Ohio State University*

“An extraordinary collection of essays that more than fulfills the aims of its editors, Alastair Phillips and Ginette Vincendeau. The essays offer exciting, original work from younger scholars as well as long-established authorities, all of which offer invaluable insights into the films, writings, and life of Jean Renoir. Receiving particular attention are questions about the singularity or multiplicity of what the editors call the many ‘Renoirs’ (French, American, Indian; even transnational), especially from the early 1930s through the early 1960s. Whether mining relatively unexplored archive materials, deploying newly current methodological approaches, interrogating one of a wide range of topics and issues, or engaging in close textual analysis, the contributors construct a tantalizing series of innovative ‘road maps’ for future researchers to pursue.”

*Richard Abel, University of Michigan*

### From the Back Cover

Dubbed simply ‘the *best* director’ by François Truffaut, Jean Renoir is a towering figure in world film history. This exhaustive survey of his work and life features a comprehensive analysis of his films from the multiple critical perspectives of the world’s leading Renoir scholars. Renoir’s career spanned four decades and four countries and included an extraordinary body of films, some of which – *La Grande illusion* (1937) and *La Règle du jeu* (1939) – are universally recognized masterpieces. Fathered by the celebrated painter Pierre-Auguste, filmmaker Renoir lived through much of the 20th century, beginning his career in the silent era and ending it in full Technicolor. His films are notable for their paradoxical combination of strong internal coherence and thematic breadth and diversity, and provide a rich source for today’s scholars of film history and French culture.

This handbook, the largest volume on Renoir ever produced in the English language, ranges in scope from extreme close-up analysis of individual films, to long-shot explorations of his aesthetics and the social and cultural contexts in which he worked. The most ambitious critical study of Renoir to date, this book will appeal to film enthusiasts as much as scholars and specialists.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **John Drew:**

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#### **John White:**

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#### **Robert Sanders:**

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