

# Easy Riders Raging Bulls Peter Biskind

Easy Riders Raging Bulls Peter Biskind Easy Riders Raging Bulls Peter Biskind's Wild Ride Through Hollywood's 70s Easy Riders Raging Bulls Peter Biskind Hollywood 1970s cinema New Hollywood Scorsese Coppola Hopper Dennis Hopper Francis Ford Coppola Martin Scorsese film history counterculture American cinema Peter Biskind's Easy Riders Raging Bulls How the Sex Drugs and Rock n Roll Generation Saved Hollywood isn't just a book it's a cinematic experience itself. A breathless often brutal account of the seismic shifts that rocked Hollywood in the 1970s it's a story told with the raw energy of the era it depicts. Biskind's narrative a whirlwind of ambition excess and creative genius paints a vivid portrait of a generation that dared to challenge the established order leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of American cinema. The title itself is a perfect encapsulation of the duality Biskind explores. Easy Riders representing the freewheeling counterculture ethos of filmmakers like Dennis Hopper embodies the rebellious spirit of the era. Raging Bulls on the other hand symbolizes the intense often volatile personalities and artistic visions of directors like Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola whose films were marked by a raw visceral intensity. Biskind masterfully interweaves the personal journeys of these filmmakers with the broader sociopolitical context of the time. He vividly captures the atmosphere of a nation grappling with the Vietnam War the Civil Rights Movement and a pervasive sense of disillusionment with traditional values. This backdrop fueled the creativity of a new breed of filmmakers eager to break free from the studio systems constraints and explore uncharted narrative territory. Think of Dennis Hopper's Easy Rider a seemingly simple story of two bikers traversing the American landscape yet a potent symbol of rebellion against societal norms. Biskind delves into Hopper's chaotic personality his struggles with addiction and his unwavering artistic vision revealing the man behind the myth. We see a brilliant flawed artist wrestling with his demons producing a film that became a cultural touchstone. Similarly Biskind unpacks the tumultuous creative processes of Scorsese and Coppola. He paints a compelling picture of Scorsese's relentless pursuit of cinematic perfection his battles with studio executives and his personal demons. We witness the birth of masterpieces like *2 Mean Streets* and *Taxi Driver* understanding the immense pressure and personal sacrifices that went into their creation. Coppola's journey from the relatively modest *The Godfather* to the epic scope of *Apocalypse Now* is portrayed with a similar level of detail revealing the complexities of his ambition and

the human cost of his artistic triumphs. The book isn't just a celebration of cinematic genius; however, Biskind doesn't shy away from the darker aspects of this era, portraying the rampant drug use, the volatile egos, and the often destructive relationships that defined the lives of these filmmakers. He portrays the era not as a romanticized utopia but as a complex tapestry of creativity and chaos. It's a story filled with betrayals, rivalries, and the constant struggle for control, a battleground where artistic ambition clashed with the brutal realities of Hollywood. Biskind's writing style is undeniably captivating. He employs a fast-paced, almost breathless narrative, mirroring the frenetic energy of the era. His prose is peppered with anecdotes, insightful observations, and colorful descriptions, drawing the reader into the heart of the action. He utilizes metaphors with precision, comparing the filmmaking process to a wild, untamed horse or the struggle for artistic control as a brutal boxing match.

**Takeaways from Easy Riders Raging Bulls**

- Embrace Risk and Innovation**: The filmmakers of the New Hollywood era weren't afraid to experiment, to push boundaries, and to challenge conventional wisdom. Their success demonstrates the power of taking risks and embracing unconventional approaches.
- Authenticity Trumps Conformity**: The films of this era resonated with audiences because they reflected the anxieties and aspirations of a generation. Authenticity in storytelling remains crucial for capturing an audience.
- Perseverance is Key**: The path to success for these filmmakers was rarely smooth. They faced countless obstacles, setbacks, and personal struggles. Their resilience and unwavering commitment to their vision are inspiring examples of perseverance.
- Embrace Collaboration and Conflict**: While rife with conflict, the collaborations between these filmmakers, actors, and studio personnel highlight the potential for greatness when diverse perspectives collide, even when explosive.

**Understand the Context**: The sociopolitical climate heavily influenced the films of the era. Understanding the historical context enriches the appreciation of their artistry and impact.

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. Is *Easy Riders Raging Bulls* a purely celebratory account of the New Hollywood era? No. While acknowledging the artistic achievements of the filmmakers, Biskind also explores the darker aspects of their lives and the era, including drug abuse, volatile personalities, and destructive relationships. It provides a balanced, nuanced perspective.
2. Who are the key figures discussed in the book? The book focuses heavily on Dennis Hopper, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, and other prominent figures like Hal Ashby, Robert Altman, and John Milius. It explores their creative processes, personal struggles, and the impact they had on the cinematic landscape.
3. Is the book easy to read? While detailed and rich in information, Biskind's writing style is engaging and fast-paced, making the book a relatively easy and enjoyable read. The anecdotes and colorful descriptions keep the narrative lively.
4. How does the book relate to the current film industry? The book provides a historical perspective on the evolution of cinema, highlighting the challenges and triumphs of the New Hollywood era. It serves as a reminder of the importance of artistic vision, risk-taking, and the power of authentic storytelling.

The book offers valuable lessons about the importance of artistic vision risktaking and the power of storytelling The struggles and triumphs of these filmmakers continue to resonate with those in the industry today 5 Where can I purchase Easy Riders Raging Bulls The book is widely available online through retailers like Amazon Barnes Noble and independent bookstores Its also often found in used bookstores Easy Riders Raging Bulls is more than just a historical account its a vibrant compelling narrative that captures the spirit of a transformative era in cinema Its a reminder that great art often arises from chaos and that the most enduring stories are those that reflect the complex realities of the human experience Its a mustread for film enthusiasts history buffs and anyone interested in the power of storytelling

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a dazzling no holds barred chronicle of the wild 1970s that transformed hollywood capturing the sex drugs genius and chaos that ignited a cinematic revolution and changed movies forever in 1969 a low budget biker movie easy rider shocked hollywood with its stunning success an unabashed celebration of sex drugs and rock n roll easy rider heralded a decade in which a rebellious wave of talented young filmmakers invigorated the movie industry easy

riders raging bulls takes us on a wild ride that chronicles the exuberance and excess of the times the startling success of easy rider and the equally alarming circumstances under which it was made with drugs booze and violent rivalry between costars dennis hopper and peter fonda dominating the set how a small production company named bbs became the guiding spirit of the youth rebellion in hollywood and how along the way some of its executives helped smuggle huey newton out of the country how director hal ashby was busted for drugs and thrown in jail in toronto why martin scorsese attended the academy awards with an fbi escort when taxi driver was nominated how george lucas gripped by anxiety compulsively cut off his own hair while writing star wars how a modest house on nicholas beach occupied by actresses margot kidder and jennifer salt became the unofficial headquarters for the new hollywood how billy friedkin tried to humiliate paramount boss barry diller and how screenwriter director paul schrader played russian roulette in his hot tub it was a time when an anything goes experimentation prevailed both on the screen and off after the success of easy rider young film school graduates suddenly found themselves in demand and directors such as francis coppola peter bogdanovich george lucas and martin scorsese became powerful figures even the new generation of film stars nicholson de niro hoffman pacino and dunaway seemed a breed apart from the traditional hollywood actors ironically the renaissance would come to an end with jaws and star wars two hugely successful films that would create a blockbuster mentality and crush innovation based on hundreds of interviews with the directors themselves producers stars agents writers studio executives spouses and ex spouses this is the full candid story of hollywood s last golden age never before have so many celebrities talked so frankly about one another and about the drugs sex and money that made so many of them crash and burn by turns hilarious and shocking easy riders raging bulls is the ultimate behind the scenes account of hollywood at work and play

when the low budget biker movie easy rider shocked hollywood with its success in 1969 a new hollywood era was born this was an age when talented young filmmakers such as scorsese coppola and spielberg along with a new breed of actors including de niro pacino and nicholson became the powerful figures who would make such modern classics as the godfather chinatown taxi driver and jaws easy riders raging bulls follows the wild ride that was hollywood in the 70s an unabashed celebration of sex drugs and rock n roll both onscreen and off and a climate where innovation and experimentation reigned supreme based on hundreds of interviews with the directors themselves producers stars agents writers studio executives spouses and ex spouses this is the full candid story of hollywood s last golden age martin scorsese on drugs i did a lot of drugs because i wanted to do a lot i

wanted to push all the way to the very very end and see if i could die dennis hopper on easy rider the cocaine problem in the united states is really because of me there was no cocaine before easy rider on the street after easy rider it was everywhere george lucas on star wars popcorn pictures have always ruled why do people go see them why is the public so stupid that s not my fault

based on hundreds of interviews with directors such as coppola scorsese hopper and spielberg as well as producers stars studio executives writers spouses and girlfriends this is the story of the crazy world that the directors ruled originally published in 1998

in the past few decades awareness of bipolar disorder has significantly increased but understanding of the condition remains vague for most of the general public though the term itself is relatively recent the condition has affected individuals for centuries and no more profoundly than in the arts the historical connections among manic depression and such fields as literature music and painting have been previously documented however the impact of bipolar disorder on movie makers and its depiction on the screen has yet to be thoroughly examined in the bipolar express manic depression and the movies david coleman provides an in depth examination of the entwined natures of mood disorders and moviemaking in this volume coleman looks at the writers directors and actors who have faced the mood swings and behavior that are hallmarks of this condition from greta garbo and orson welles to marilyn monroe and jonathan winters in addition to recognizing the cinematic contributions of manic depressive filmmakers the author also looks at movies that have portrayed bipolar disorder with varying degrees of accuracy including citizen kane rebel without a cause breakfast at tiffany s hannah and her sisters the aviator and silver linings playbook from early silents of the twentieth century through critically acclaimed films of today this book compares depictions of mood swings on screen with clinical examples of actual manic depression carefully distinguishing real from stereotypical portrayals this fascinating study is augmented by a concise filmography of more than 400 feature length films from around the world with themes or characters relating to manic depressive illness though aimed at film fans and anyone interested in manic depression mental illness or related medical studies this book will also prove valuable to medical and mental health professionals

discover the genius of martin scorsese one of cinema s greatest storytellers for over 50 years martin scorsese has been one of cinema s most celebrated directors from a catholic kid in

manhattan to a legendary filmmaker he shaped hollywood with masterpieces such as taxi driver goodfellas and the irishman but what makes a scorsese film unique his stories explore power morality and human nature blending raw emotion with intellectual depth whether reinventing noir musicals or crime dramas his work captures the pulse of america and the italian american experience this book dives into all 26 of his films breaking down his signature themes iconic collaborations with robert de niro and leonardo dicaprio and his place in film history a true movie fanatic and preservationist scorsese continues to push boundaries proving that cinema isn't just entertainment it's an art form

the fifth in the ultrascreen series of eclectic anthologies examines the influence of scorsese's upbringing in little italy on mean streets and goodfellas the urban madness of taxi driver and bringing out the dead the catholic religiosity that permeates all the way from mean streets to the controversial interpretation of the gospels in the last temptation of christ it also describes the devotion to us cinema that led the director to tackle the all american musical in new york new york make a sequel to a classic in the color of money and remake a pulp crime movie in cape fear in its surprising wealth of interviews essays and reviews martin scorsese a journey through the american psyche examines a filmmaker whose works offer little pieces of history reflected through the viewfinder be it in the era of assassination backdrop of taxi driver or the bloody nineteenth century canvas of gangs of new york

this searing documentary narrated by william h macy traces the highs and lows the scandals and celebrations the tragedies and triumphs that shaped this phenomenal period in cinema history adapted from peter biskind's literary phenomenon the book that blew the lid off both hollywood and the lives of the infamous celebrated movie brats box cover note

the seventies witnessed economic decline in america coupled with a series of foreign policy failures events that created an air of unease and uncertainty this volume examines the ways in which americans responded to a changing world and sought to redefine themselves

offers a detailed cultural history of weddings in america from 1945 to 2000 exploring the political social economic and demographic events that influenced the traditions and cost associated with weddings in the post war years

in the last four decades british graphic design has established itself as a powerful and significant force expressing itself within the music and publishing industries through brand identities new media and all other forms of visual communication in the contemporary world

communicate independent british graphic design since the sixties which accompanies the barbican exhibition of the same title presents an authoritative overview of the design work produced in this period tracing how and why british graphic design has developed in the way it has over 60 internationally renowned designers working today are featured including derek birdsall mark farrow neville brody peter saville why not associates and the designers republic rare and classic pieces from the 1960s by influential designers such as barney bubbles herbert spencer and michael english are also featured the book is divided into sections covering publishing identity the arts music politics and society and self initiated work with essays by john o reilly david crowley and nico macdonald there are interviews with ten key designers including julian house ian anderson and margaret calvert and biographies

the first book length survey of cinema s vital role in the cold war cultural combat between the u s and the ussr focuses on 10 films five american and five soviet both iconic and lesser known works showing that cinema provided a crucial outlet for the global debate between democratic and communist ideologies

a collection that gives the low down on hollywood in the last 30 years from the author of easy riders raging bulls and down and dirty pictures

described by the bbc as one of the most significant american films ever made soldier blue became explosively linked to real events of the vietnam war as a result of the uncanny similarities between the u s cavalry s extermination of native americans depicted at the film s finale and the american massacre of vietnamese civilians at my lai in 1968 just two years before the film was released drawing on primary sources and interviews with individuals associated with the production this work solves the longstanding mystery of whether soldier blue a picture that set a new mark in cinematic violence in 1970 deliberately echoed events in the vietnam war in addition the author details the bizarre location shoot in mexico describes the various post production and censorship problems encountered by the film s director and producers and examines the circumstances in and beyond the american film industry in the late 1960s that led to the creation of such a radical and bitter film richly illustrated with many rare and previously unpublished photographs the book also contains four appendices providing a complete list of cast crew credits a revised final budget for the film complete reproductions of two 1971 british articles on the film and a reproduction of a harper s weekly article from 1885

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