

# The Philosophy Of Charlie Kaufman

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The Postmodern Cinema of Spike Jonze  
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from the academy award winning eternal sunshine of the spotless mind 2004 and academy award nominated adaptation 2002 to the cult classic being john malkovich 1999 writer charlie kaufman is widely admired for his innovative philosophically resonant films although he only recently made his directorial debut with synecdoche new york 2008 most fans and critics refer to kaufman films the way they would otherwise discuss works by directors woody allen martin scorsese or the coen brothers not only has kaufman transformed our sense of what can take place in a film but he also has made a significant impact on our understanding of the role of the screenwriter the philosophy of charlie kaufman edited by david larocca is the first collection of essays devoted to a rigorous philosophical exploration of kaufman s work by a team of capable and critical scholars from a wide range of disciplines from political theorists to philosophers classicists to theologians professors of literature to filmmakers the contributing authors delve into the heart of kaufman s innovative screenplays offering not only

original philosophical analyses but also extended reflections on the nature of film and film criticism

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this revealing study looks at the influences and creative impulses that shape one of today s most progressive thoughtful filmmakers charlie kaufman got his start in television but it was his first film the eccentric *being john malkovich* that won notice for his unique storytelling style with the aid of a plethora of contributions from those with whom the writer has worked charlie kaufman confessions of an original mind presents the intriguing story of that movie and others as it examines one of the most innovative voices in modern film this exhaustive study of kaufman s life and work is organized chronologically to cover his early influences as well as his most recent ventures highlights include explorations of kaufman s collaboration with *being john malkovich* director spike jonze who stood him up for their first meeting and the writer s conflict with george clooney about whom kaufman says i can tell you that george clooney is my least favorite person there are analyses of human nature adaptation and the hauntingly beautiful *eternal sunshine of the spotless mind* which led to an academy award the book also studies kaufman s sound plays for theatre of the new ear and his directorial debut *synecdoche new york*

the bold and boundlessly original debut novel from the oscar winning screenwriter of *being john malkovich* adaptation *eternal sunshine of the spotless mind* and *synecdoche new york* longlisted for the center for fiction first novel prize a dyspeptic satire that owes much to kurt vonnegut and thomas pynchon propelled by kaufman s deep imagination considerable writing ability and bull s eye wit the washington post an astonishing creation riotously funny an exceptionally good book the new york times book review kaufman is a master of language a sight to behold npr named one of the best books of the year by npr and men s health b rosenberger rosenberg neurotic and underappreciated film critic failed academic filmmaker paramour shoe salesman who sleeps in a sock drawer stumbles upon a hitherto

unseen film made by an enigmatic outsider a film he's convinced will change his career trajectory and rock the world of cinema to its core his hands on what is possibly the greatest movie ever made a three month long stop motion masterpiece that took its reclusive auteur ninety years to complete b knows that it is his mission to show it to the rest of humanity the only problem the film is destroyed leaving him the sole witness to its inadvertently ephemeral genius all that's left of this work of art is a single frame from which b must somehow attempt to recall the film that just might be the last great hope of civilization thus begins a mind boggling journey through the hilarious nightmarescape of a psyche as lushly kafkaesque as it is atrophied by the relentless spew of twitter desperate to impose order on an increasingly nonsensical existence trapped in a self imposed prison of aspirational victimhood and degeneratively inclusive language b scrambles to re create the lost masterwork while attempting to keep pace with an ever fracturing culture of likes and arbitrary denunciations that are simultaneously his *bête noire* and his *raison d'être* a searing indictment of the modern world antkind is a richly layered meditation on art time memory identity comedy and the very nature of existence itself the grain of truth at the heart of every joke

since the late 1990s a subversive element has been at work within the staid confines of the hollywood dream factory this new breed of american film captures the angst of its characters and the times in which we live this title analyses and traces the origins of the pivotal films and directors in this war on the mundane

human nature a film of ideas and wry comic mayhem the hollywood reporter

the newmarket shooting script r sets offer a value priced opportunity for screenplay lovers to build their collection each book within the set includes a facsimile of the film's actual shooting script plus exclusive extras such as introductions by or interviews with the filmmakers notes on the film's production selected movie stills and complete cast and crew credits includes eternal sunshine of the spotless mind oscar r winner for best original screenplay features a q a with charlie kaufman and introduction by director michel gondry adaptation kaufman's adaptation of susan orlean's bestselling book the orchid thief with commentaries by orlean and robert mckee plus an in depth interview with kaufman and director spike jonze

since the late 1990s a subtle subversive element has been at work within the staid confines of the hollywood dream factory young filmmakers like spike jonze wes anderson michel gondry david o russell richard linklater and sofia coppola rode in on the coattails of the independent film movement that blossomed in the early 1990s and have managed to wage an aesthetic campaign against imaginative cowardice of all persuasions much like their artistic forebears the so called movie brats coppola scorsese de palma altman and ashby among others did in the 1970s but their true pedigree can be traced back to the cinematic provocateurs of the *nouvelle vague* truffaut goddard chabrol rohmer rivette et al who in the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s liberated screens around the world with a series of films that

challenged our assumptions of what the medium could offer and how stories could be told all of them snapping with style as much as they delivered on ideas highly idiosyncratic yet intricately realised accessible yet willing to overthrow the constraints of formal storytelling surreal yet always grounded in human emotions this new breed of american film captures the angst of its characters and the times in which we live but with a wryness imagination earnestness irony and stylish wit that makes the slide into existential despair a little more amusing than it should be this book analyzes and traces the origins of the pivotal films and directors in this undeclared war on the mundane

the year s releases in review with necrologies and brief articles

the screenplay of the hilariously surreal cult hit in which puppeteer craig schwartz played by john cusack discovers a portal that leads literally into the head of the movie star john malkovich played of course by malkovich himself this shooting script edition also features an exclusive angst ridden introduction by the author a terrific original screenplay by charlie kaufman intriguingly prophetic irresistible nimble and very funny new york times

the newmarket shooting script r sets offer a value priced opportunity for screenplay lovers to build their collection each book within the set includes a facsimile of the film s actual shooting script plus exclusive extras such as introductions by or interviews with the filmmakers notes on the film s production selected movie stills and complete cast and crew credits this 3 vol paperback set includes the script books for the movies capote the squid and the whale and eternal sunshine of the spotless mind capote winner best screenplay independent spirit award features full color section of film stills and background information the squid and the whale winner best screenplay national board of review includes a q a with noah baumbach eternal sunshine of the spotless mind academy award r winner for best original screenplay features a q a with charlie kaufman

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