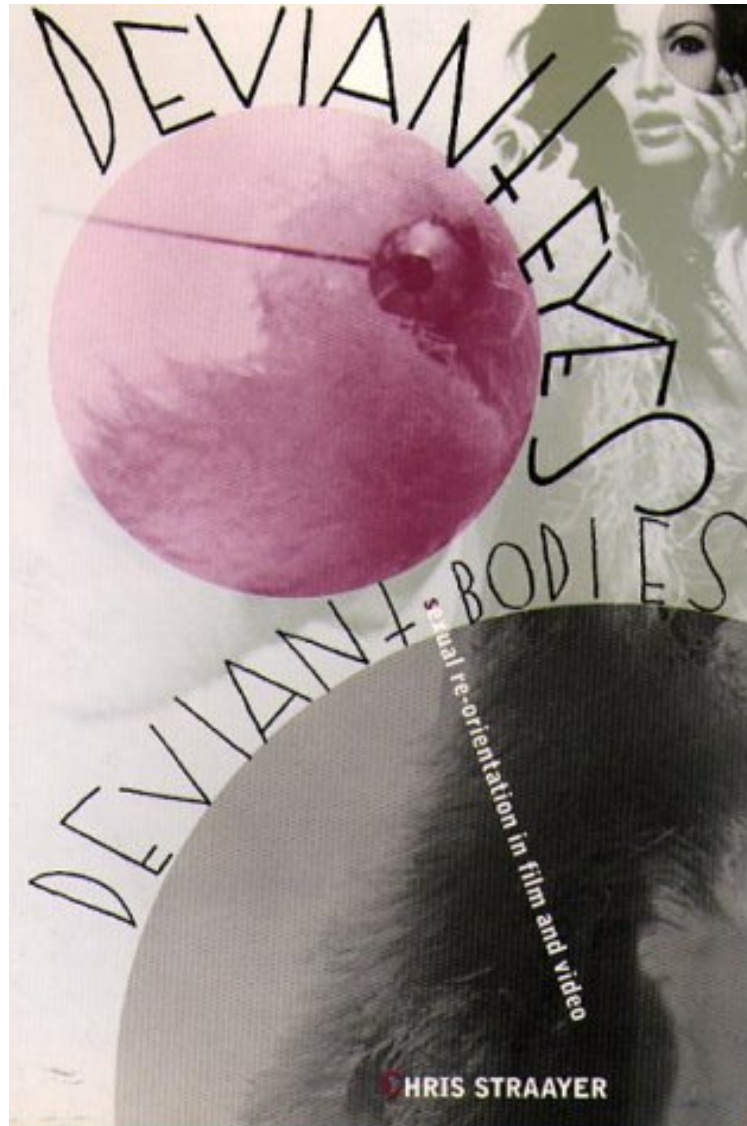


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Deviant Eyes, Deviant Bodies

Chris Straayer

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Chris Straayer : Deviant Eyes, Deviant Bodies before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deviant Eyes, Deviant Bodies:

Engaging feminist and queer theory ranging from Nancy Chodorow to Judith Butler to Valerie Solanis's SCUM Manifesto, Straayer considers the wealth of films made by and for nontraditional viewers. Straayer investigation

ranges from Stella Dallas to Mrs. Doubtfire, "experimental" lesbian and gay films from the classic *Maedchen in Uniform* to the contemporary *Go Fish*, and music video icons such as David Bowie, Dead or Alive, and Divine to investigate transgressions of traditional gender boundaries.

From *Library Journal* Straayer (cinema studies, NYU) approaches feminist film theory from a queer (primarily lesbian) perspective, examining complex relationships between viewer and film while arguing for a rethinking of rigid sexual dichotomies. After studying mainstream, independent, and pornographic films, particularly those of Annie Sprinkle, Straayer posits multiple nonheterosexual, nonpatriarchal subjectivities for the way we view film, working toward a sexuality/gender continuum. Although the prose relies on deconstructionist terminology, determined readers will find Straayer's thesis compelling. A useful companion to Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* (LJ 2/1/89) and *Bad Object-Choices' How Do I Look?* (LJ 2/1/92), this belongs in all film, gender, and queer studies collections. Anthony J. Adam, *Prairie View AM Univ. Lib., Tex.* Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. In the course of this fascinating, polemical book... [Straayer] writes interestingly about such films as *Some Like It Hot*, *Victor / Victoria*, *Adoption*, and *Orlando* and about a number of experimental films.... Informative, challenging, thought-provoking, and perhaps unsettling. (Choice) About the Author CHRIS STRAAYER is associate professor of cinema studies at New York University.