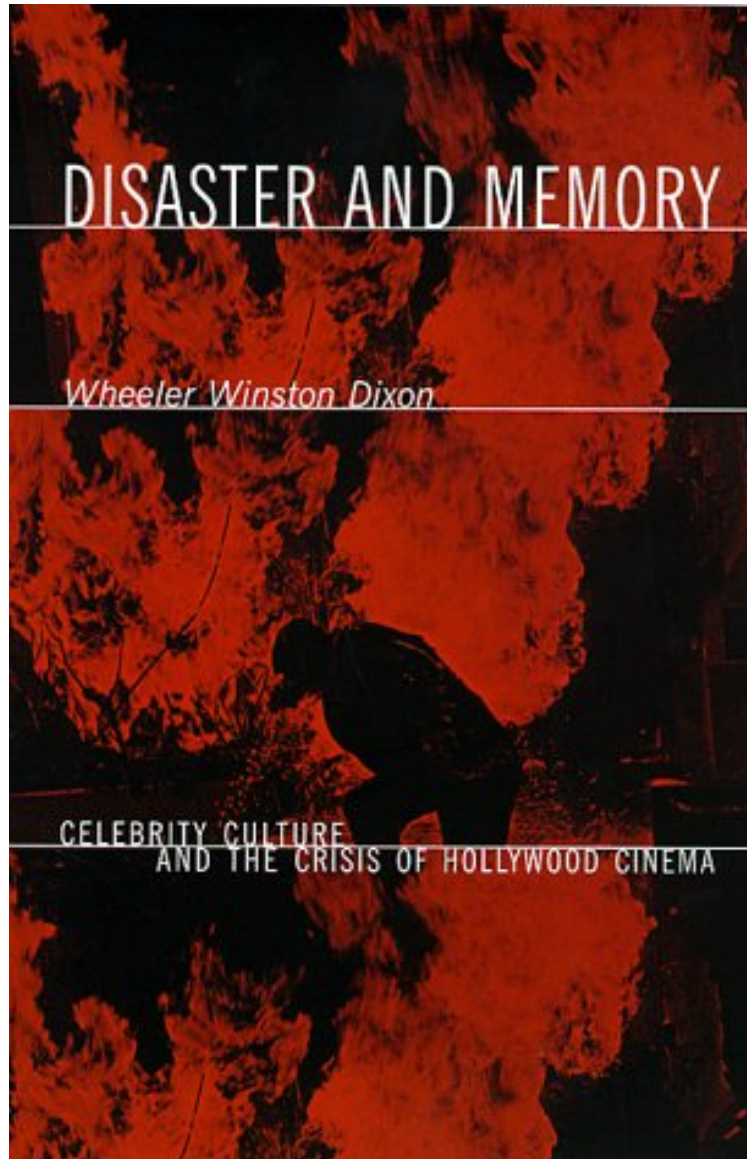


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Disaster and Memory

Wheeler Winston Dixon

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Wheeler Winston Dixon : Disaster and Memory before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Disaster and Memory:

Using the media's coverage of the death of Princess Diana as a departing point, Wheeler Dixon presents a sharply critical assessment of the current state of movies--from the cult of celebrity, to the nature of public surveillance, to the

role of print and television media in shaping our shared consciousness--unveiling our fascination with disaster. Dixon argues that movies such as James Cameron's *Titanic* replay the same Hollywood disaster plotlines with greater wizardry and less humanity than the films of fifty years ago. Contemporary cinema has become simply a memory of itself. Dixon draws on the effects of new technologies, the role of the "star" system, and the development of media conglomerates to explain why Hollywood has become so repetitive. Looking at a wide range of film genres, from obscure horror to blockbuster disaster movies, Dixon weaves together the elements that entice and manipulate audience expectations and emotions. Throughout the book, he examines the role of televisual media (cable, video, instant print magazines, digitally stored photos) in capturing the public's attention, and how these media could instead be used to open movie audiences to new stories and experiences. With its broad scope and frank tone, *Disaster and Memory* offers a refreshing and controversial perspective on the past, present, and future of Hollywood.

"Wheeler Winston Dixon is one of the most useful film critics I know. He is a superb guide to the issues facing filmmakers and film viewers alike as we approach the new millennium. *Disaster and Memory* takes a melancholy look at our culture's obsession with monumentalized images of catastrophes [. . .] but also surveys a wide range of alternative cinematic strategies, ways to keep hope alive in this age of post modern spectacle." - Steven Shaviro

"Dixon is one of the most useful film critics I know. He is a superb guide to the issues facing filmmakers and filmwriters alike as we approach the new millennium." -- Steven Shaviro, author of *Doom Patrols: A Theoretical Fiction About Postmodernism*

About the Author Wheeler Winston Dixon is the James Ryan Professor of Film Studies, Coordinator of the Film Studies Program, Professor of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and, with Gwendolyn Audrey Foster, editor of the new book series *Quick Takes: Movies and Popular Culture* for Rutgers University Press. His recent books include *Black White Cinema: A Short History* (2015); *Streaming: Movies, Media and Instant Access* (2013); *Death of the Moguls: The End of Classical Hollywood* (2012); *21st Century Hollywood: Movies in the Era of Transformation* (2011, co-authored with Gwendolyn Audrey Foster); *A History of Horror* (2010); and *Film Noir and the Cinema of Paranoia* (2009). Dixon's book *A Short History of Film* (2008, co-authored with Gwendolyn Audrey Foster) was reprinted six times through 2012. A second, revised edition was published in 2013; the book is a required text in universities throughout the world.