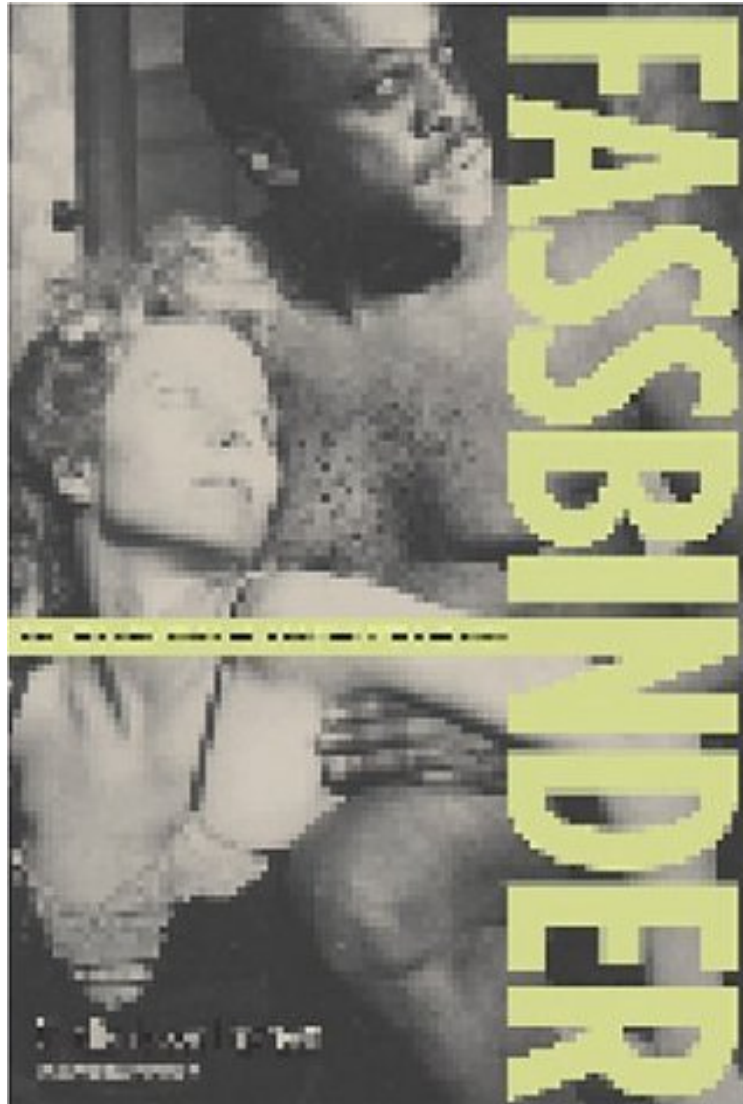


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Fassbinder: The Life And Work Of A Provocative Genius

Christian Braad Thomsen

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Christian Braad Thomsen : Fassbinder: The Life And Work Of A Provocative Genius before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fassbinder: The Life And Work Of A Provocative Genius:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Extensive biographyBy MelindaWord association. When you hear the name Rainer Werner Fassbinder, what words come to mind?Genius Creative Dictator Troubled Disturbed Workaholic Driven Talented PassionateThe possibilities are endless, too numerous to list. In Christian Braad Thomsen's Fassbinder: The Life And Work Of A Provocative Genius you will read an extremely comprehensive and

exhausted biography of Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Thomsen, a close friend, tells of the life and times as well as diving into Fassbinder's work holding nothing back of this creative and controversial genius both in his personal and professional life. We learn of Fassbinder's turbulent childhood, his homosexuality, his faux marriage, his work habits, his volatile, and painful relationships with his actors. More importantly Fassbinder's passion and obsession of cinema and theatre is explored in great detail. Thomsen cites Fassbinder's work along with analysis, beautifully presented and never boring or mundane. Well executed and appreciated by those that have not had the opportunity to view all of Fassbinder's work. Theatre is also presented and extremely important since theatre was the catalyst for Fassbinder venturing him into film. Fassbinder stated "In theatre I always directed as if it were a film, and then shot the films as if it were theatre, I did that fairly determinedly." Fassbinder stated in regards to cinema "I would like to build a house with my films. Some are the cellar, others the walls and others again are the windows. But I hope that, in the end, it will be a house." Fassbinder's doppelgänger is the core in much of his work, specifically with the use of mirrors, a metaphor representing the double nature of personalities, illusions separating reality from appearance. Examples of mirrors used in the films *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* and *Fox and his Friends*. Quenelle, Fassbinder's final project the theme of the double is most present and noticeable. This last project has been considered to be his final testament - sex, and death are synonymous, constantly mirroring each other and becoming interchangeable values. Obviously Fassbinder faced criticism and backlash, controversy never lacking. Domination and masochism familiar in many of his films. Feminists were disturbed with his film *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, feeling that women operated solely on the level of dependence and victimization. The homosexual community did not appreciate the vision presented between two men in the film *Fox and his Friends*. The militant left did not appreciate the portrayal of the left in the film *Mother Kuster's Trip to Heaven*. In his film *Garbage, the City and Death* he was accused of anti-Semitism. Fassbinder's reasons by doubling the character with a plaster figure or a statue the dummy functions as projection surfaces for parts of the psyche, dreams, longings or how they show we treat one another - not as human beings with a soul/reason but as commodities. In *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant* the doll replaces the lost lover, while her maid's make up turns her into a living doll, treated as such. Thomsen did a wonderful job with this book, my only criticism is the Freudian interpretations the author referenced in order to appreciate Fassbinder's films, which isn't necessary per Thomsen. Excessive Freudian symbolism was used throughout the book towards Fassbinder's films and became annoying after some time. The book was solid without the Freudian information, totally unnecessary. Fassbinder: The Life And Work Of A Provocative Genius is well done, detailed and interesting if not thorough. I have nothing to compare this biography with other writings on Fassbinder with the exception of articles, so keep that in mind. I highly suggest this work for cinema buffs, film students or Fassbinder lover or haters, very informative and educational. Rainer Werner Fassbinder, so much talent, promise and controversy gone at 37 years young leaving an amazing legacy behind. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thomsen's book is insightful.....By Stalwart Kreinblaster If you are curious about Fassbinder's film - this book offers a fine outline - with comments about Fassbinder's life interspersed - by someone who knew him and talked to him on several occasions. You can sense that Fassbinder had a great impact on Christian Braad Thomsen - his biography is done in a loving fashion. 3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Into the Chaos By Red Cabbage "Life and Work" is one of the most in depth and personal accounts of the personality behind some of the most intriguing, mysterious, and at times, revolting films of twentieth century cinema. Christian Braad Thomsen writes with the authenticity of someone who experienced Fassbinder first hand. If you are even remotely interested in the works of R.W. Fassbinder, start from his sixties era films and work up to his last in 1982. This book will be the perfect companion.

Rainer Werner Fassbinder was the most innovative practitioner of New German Cinema. He worked at breakneck speed and in fourteen years made forty-four films, including *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* (1973) and *The Marriage of Maria Braun* (1978). Fassbinder ruthlessly attacked both German bourgeois society and the larger limitations of humanity, and his films detail the desperate yearning for love and freedom and the many ways in which society defeats that desire. In *Fassbinder*, Christian Thomsen, a close friend of the director, illuminates Fassbinder's body of work while revealing his insider views of a man who, despite a furious temper, manic working habits, and rampant drug addiction, supported an extended family - including his mother, a string of male lovers, lovelorn women, and even a pair of frustrated wives - with his intoxicating and prolific imagination. This book, like Fassbinder's often-used image of the mirror, brilliantly reflects the sexual, political, and overwhelmingly human contradictions inherent in the life of this intensely creative man and the remarkable films he directed. Christian Braad Thomsen is a Danish filmmaker and scholar.

.com Rainer Werner Fassbinder is perhaps the most arresting and controversial film director of all time. In a career that lasted only 16 years, ending abruptly when he died of a drug overdose at age 36, Fassbinder wrote and directed 34 films and two lengthy television miniseries. He was also a prolific playwright and actor in other people's films. Comprehensive assessments are hard to come by, but this book, written by one of Fassbinder's friends, does an admirable job of covering the prolific director's career and analyzing all of his films, including the masterworks *Effie*

Briest, *The Marriage of Maria Braun*, *Lola*, *Veronika Voss*, and *Berlin-Alexanderplatz*. The book ends with an intriguing reassessment of Fassbinder's final movie, *Querelle*. About the Author Christian Braad Thomsen is a Danish filmmaker and scholar.