



Screening the Face

Prof Paul Coates

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Paul Coates presents the face in film as a place where transformations begin, above all under the influence of modernity's problematization of the reading of faces, but also of age-old myths. The book considers where and how the face becomes either a mask, or what Lacanian theory would term 'the Thing', in a perspective informed by film theory, anthropology, philosophy and theology. Although its key text is Ingmar Bergman's *Persona*, it analyzes a wide range of other films, primarily European and American, including *Cat People*, *The Dark Knight*, *Dekalog 1*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *The Face of Another*, *Greed*, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, *Triumph of the Will*, and various works by Chris Marker. The book investigates the face's modifications by allegory, the close-up, doubling, horror, stardom, veiling and war; the significance of its representation in profile and three-quarter-face; and the urge to mask or freeze its vulnerable, ever-changing nature.

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