


(Mobile book) Encyclopedia of Stanley Kubrick: From Day of the Fight to Eyes Wide Shut (Library of Great Filmmakers) by Rodney Hill (2002-05-03)

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**From Facts on File : Encyclopedia of Stanley Kubrick: From Day of the Fight to Eyes Wide Shut (Library of Great Filmmakers) by Rodney Hill (2002-05-03)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Stanley Kubrick: From Day of the Fight to Eyes Wide Shut (Library of Great Filmmakers) by Rodney Hill (2002-05-03):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Darren Davis10/10.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Well, why not?By Dennis LittrellBronx-born Stanley Kubrick spent much of his professional life in England where he made some of the most controversial and original films ever to grace the silver screen. This uneven but fascinating book is in a sense a tribute to the man and his work. This is not the first encyclopedic treatment of a top movie director published by Facts on File--they have also done Alfred Hitchcock and Orson Welles. Perhaps this format--an "encyclopedia"--will catch on. At any rate, it is fun to leaf through randomly or perhaps one could actually proceed alphabetically.The entries of course all have some connection with Kubrick. Included are actors who played in his movies, and people related to him and his friends and other people he worked with. There are also entries on movie business phenomena like "antiwar themes" and "censorship." There is an interesting entry on Steven Spielberg's Artificial Intelligence (2001) in which I learned that the original conception came from Kubrick. There are a number

of black and white photos spread throughout the text and some line drawings, mostly of Kubrick and the actors who played in his films. Often the photos are stills from the movies. It is interesting to see Kubrick at various stages of his career and how time changed his appearance. My favorite photo is of George C. Scott and Stanley Kubrick playing chess on the set of *Dr. Strangelove* underneath the "War Room" mock up. By the way, Scott is reported to have gained respect for the younger Kubrick when Kubrick beat him at chess. There is rather a lot of repetition in the entries, some of it unavoidable of course because entries overlap in content. However the entry for Sue Lyon, for example, who was Kubrick's *Lolita*, contains a summary of the plot of *Lolita* to the exclusion of the rather sparse information about Lyon. Also the editing and proofreading of the entries is not first rate. The text was begun by Rodney Hill and then taken up by Gene D. Phillips, which may account for some of the avoidable repetition. Some of the entries were written by John C. Tibbetts and others tagged with initials and identified as "Contributors" near the back of the book. Clearly the strength of the book is in the light it sheds on Stanley Kubrick and his life in film. The detail is fascinating and the writing, in spite of the repetitions, is engaging. There are nice pieces on George C. Scott, James Mason, Peter Sellers, Malcolm McDowell, Nicole Kidman, Shelley Winters, Arthur C. Clarke, etc. as well as essays on all of Kubrick movies. Included are behind the scenes information about what went on during the shooting of the films, how the films were conceived and how they progressed. I was intrigued to learn that Kubrick was able to get a fine performance from the otherwise undistinguished Sue Lyon partly because he sometimes allowed her to use her own vernacular instead of words from the script. Also interesting was the difficulties that Shelley Winters experienced (from her viewpoint!) in working with James Mason and Peter Sellers in *Lolita* (1962). The relationship between Kubrick and Arthur C. Clarke, who wrote the novel *2001: A Space Odyssey* and worked with Kubrick on the screenplay for the film, is interesting to follow. One realizes again that at the base of Kubrick's film creations is an abiding interest in science and human psychology. Bottom line: an irresistible companion to the films of Stanley Kubrick, one of cinema's greatest directors and one of my personal favorites.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun "grazing" type book  
By Steve Reina  
While I happily recommend this book I still think prospective readers (buyers) should know what they're getting. First off, instead of an encyclopedia it's more of a dictionary with entries alphabetically listed such as *Dr. Strangelove* or *Lolita*. In no case is any section more than two or three pages which makes for a lot of brief superficial coverage of different areas of the famous director's life and work product. People interested in this format should know that at least two other such books exist including one on Orson Welles and the other on Alfred Hitchcock. In most cases the entries amount to fun reads which will probably exhaust most readers' interest in different Kubrick related issues. For a deeper discussion of Kubrick's life and work readers are probably best directed elsewhere. For me though I thought it was a fun grazing type book that you can either follow alphabetically or just access at random as the mood and the opportunity hits.