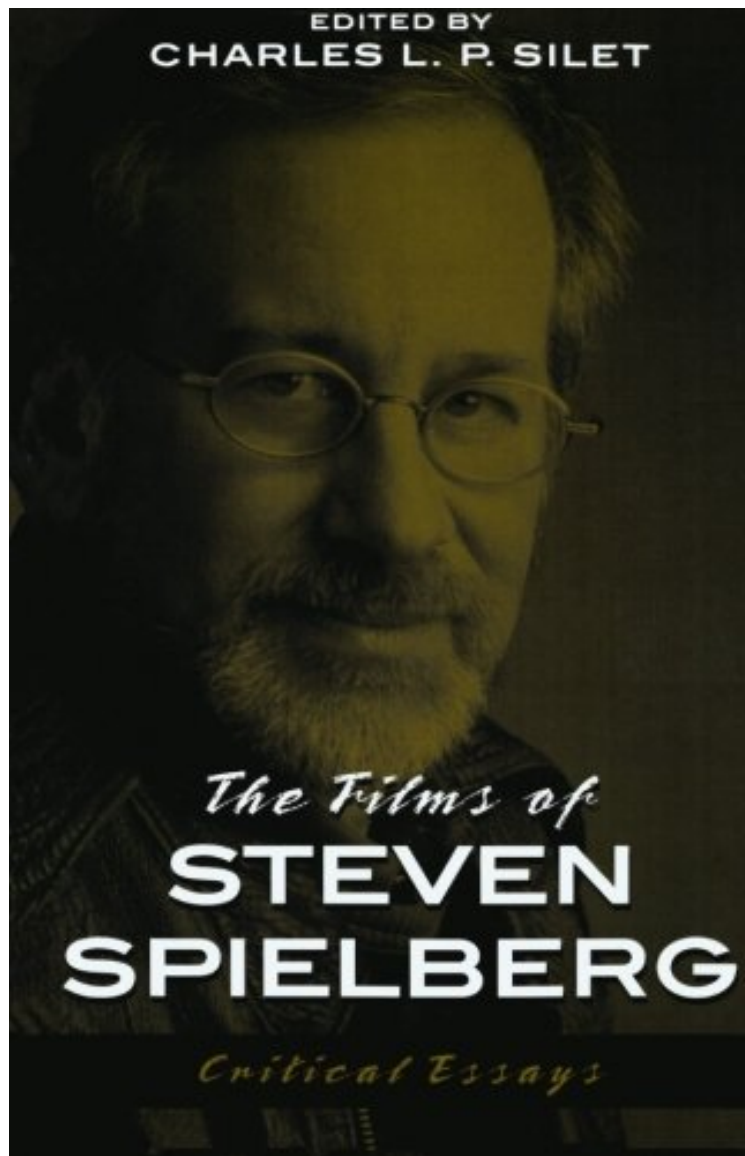


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**From Brand: Scarecrow Press : The Films of Steven Spielberg : Critical Essays (The Scarecrow Filmmakers, 94)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Films of Steven Spielberg : Critical Essays (The Scarecrow Filmmakers, 94):

Steven Spielberg has fashioned an enviable career as a writer, producer, and director of American motion pictures, winning Academy Awards for Best Direction (*Saving Private Ryan*, *Schindler's List*), and for Best Film (*Schindler's List*). With David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg he founded Dreamworks SKG, already one of the most productive and respected studios in Hollywood. Despite Spielberg's notable successes, however, his films have not avoided controversy. *The Films of Steven Spielberg* provides for the first time a collection of critical writings by professional film critics about the director and his films, bringing together many articles and reviews scattered in often inaccessible specialist publications and professional journals. The opinions vary from complimentary to critical, but they definitely provide a well-rounded view of the films and the director. Twelve of Spielberg's major box office hits, including *Jaws*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, *The Color Purple*, *Empire of the Sun*, *Jurassic Park*, *Schindler's List*, *Amistad*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, are discussed in essays that vary in complexity ranging from the heavily theoretical to the more general. This collection of essays, compiled for both film students and professionals in the film industry, attests to the influence of Spielberg and the films that have earned him a significant place in the history of cinema as one of America's most innovative and culturally important filmmakers.

About the Author Charles L. P. Silet is Professor of English at Iowa State University. In 1998 he received the Excellence in Honors Teaching Award from the University Honors Program. He has published fourteen books including *Oliver Stone: Interviews* [2001, University Press of Mississippi].