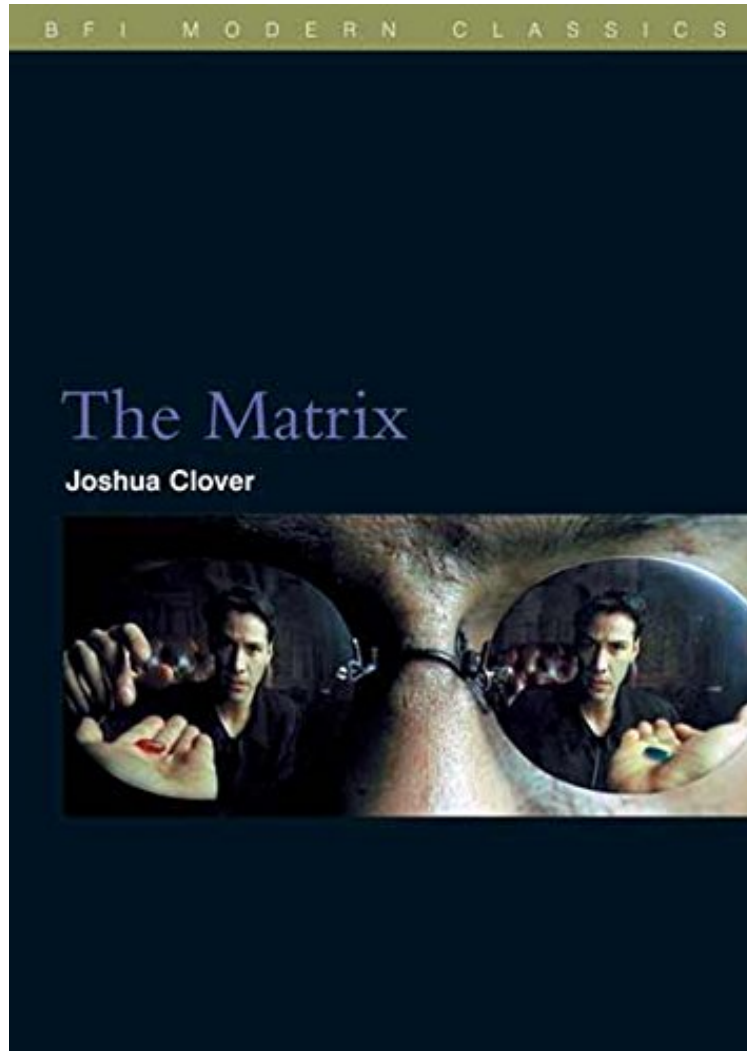


[Ebook free] The Matrix (BFI Modern Classics)

The Matrix (BFI Modern Classics)

Joshua Clover

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#236065 in Books 2007-06-12 2007-06-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.85 x .40 x 3.991, .38 #File Name: 184457045296 pages | File size: 17.Mb

Joshua Clover : The Matrix (BFI Modern Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Matrix (BFI Modern Classics):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Cool bookBy McLarenVery inspiring, like watching the whole movie again but from a new perspective. It gives a lot of social background for the movie, like the rise of the videogame and DVD industry at the turn of the century.0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy A. Weiner RA, LEED APWorthless13 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Needlessly ObtuseBy Dash ManchetteFilm analysis being what it is, I am used to some esoteric theorizing in the genre. Although the monographs from the British Film Institute have not been immune, usually they provide sufficient insight to a movie to justify

reading them. I have been able to appreciate several movies, such as *The Birds*, *Belle De Jour*, *Vertigo*, more than I otherwise would have because of the background and interpretation provided by BFI. *THE MATRIX*, however, by Joshua Clover, simply is not up to snuff. Clover brings up some interesting issues in the book, perhaps the most interesting of which is why *Edge of the Construct* films (in which characters are living in a falsified reality) were so popular at the end of the Twentieth Century. But the questions are buried under so much analytic-babble that the answers are never really all that clear. Similar problems exist with other issues raised in the book. Clover discusses *The Matrix* in reference to such issues as the increase in video game popularity, the symbolism of all the characters of the rebellion wearing sunglasses but only within the matrix itself (never while in the real world), and the parallels between the matrix world and current society's push to make one an ever working automaton in a corporate structure. But these issues all feel a bit artificial, as if Clover is not really analyzing the movie *The Matrix* as much as he is using the movie to soliloquize about his own views of the world and issues that he thinks the rest of us need to hear. This is particularly unfortunate given the specific movie involved. *The Matrix* is pregnant with meaning, both philosophical and social. This book could have been - should have been - better than the average release by BFI. Instead we get enough to whet the appetite only to be denied the nutritional meal.

The Matrix, a true end-of-the-millennium movie, blends science fiction with conspiracy thriller conventions and outlandish martial arts created with groundbreaking digital techniques. Clover examines *The Matrix*'s digital effects, the melding of cinema and video games and the film's references to philosophy.

From the Back Cover *The Matrix* (1999) was a true end-of-the-millennium movie, a statement of the American Zeitgeist, and a prognosis for the future of big-budget Hollywood filmmaking. Starring Keanu Reeves as Neo, a computer programmer transformed into a messianic freedom fighter, *The Matrix* blends science fiction with conspiracy thriller conventions and outlandish martial arts created with groundbreaking digital techniques. A box-office triumph, the film was no populist confection: its blatant allusions to highbrow contemporary philosophy added to its appeal as a mystery to be decoded. Joshua Clover undertakes the task of decoding the film. Examining *The Matrix*'s digital effects and how they were achieved, he shows how the film represents a melding of cinema and video games (the greatest commercial threat to have faced Hollywood since the advent of television) and achieves a hybrid kind of immersive entertainment. He also unpacks the movie's references to philosophy, showing how *The Matrix* ultimately expresses the crisis American culture faced at the end of the 1990s. About the Author JOSHUA CLOVER, author of award-winning book of poetry *Madonna anno domini* (1996) and many other works, is Associate Professor of Poetry and Poetics at the University of California, Davis. He writes on art and politics for the *Village Voice*.