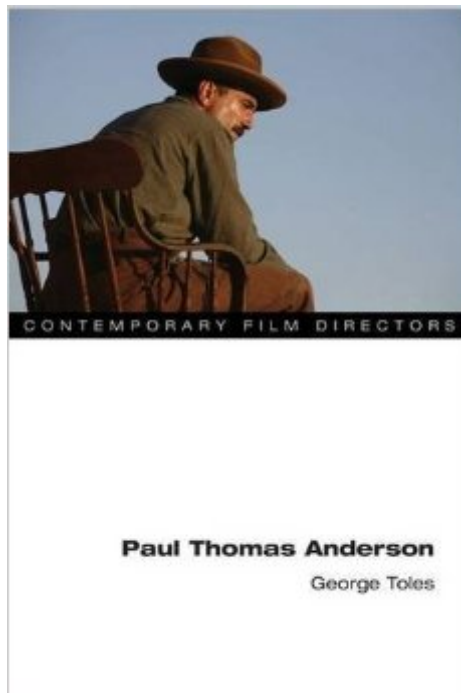


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Paul Thomas Anderson (Contemporary Film Directors)



Synopsis

Since his explosive debut with the indie sensation *Hard Eight*, Paul Thomas Anderson has established himself as one of contemporary cinema's most exciting artists. His 2002 feature *Punch-Drunk Love* radically reimagined the romantic comedy. Critics hailed *There Will Be Blood* as a key film of the new millennium. In *The Master*, Anderson jarred audiences with dreamy amorphousness and a departure from conventional story mechanics. Acclaimed film scholar and screenwriter George Toles approaches these three films in particular, and Anderson's oeuvre in general, with a focus on the role of emergence and the production of the unaccountable. Anderson, Toles shows, is an artist obsessed with history, workplaces, and environments but also intrigued by spaces as projections of the people who dwell within. Toles follows Anderson from the open narratives of *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia* through the pivot that led to his more recent films, Janus-faced masterpieces that orbit around isolated central characters--and advance Anderson's journey into allegory and myth. Blending penetrative analysis with a deep knowledge of filmic storytelling, Paul Thomas Anderson tours an important filmmaker's ever-deepening landscape of disconnection.

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