



Ridley Scott: Interviews (Conversations with Filmmakers (Paperback))

From Brand: University Press of Mississippi

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Artisan, entrepreneur, and impresario, British filmmaker Ridley Scott accepts the profit motive as the only way to thrive in an industry where there is little patience for artistic flourishes or overblown expenses. Yet, while he may pay lip service to the free enterprise system, he is an unapologetic auteur, committed to using every element of film—from evocative lighting to digital composition—to overwhelm our senses and redefine how we perceive the future (*Alien*, *Blade Runner*), the past (*1492: The Conquest of Paradise*, *Gladiator*), and the present (*Thelma & Louise*, *Black Hawk Down*).

This collection of interviews follows Scott over twenty-five years as he perfects the Ridley Scott look, builds his media empire, and reacts to the twenty-year cult status of *Blade Runner*. Throughout, he discusses the triumphs and challenges involved in working with A-list actors—particularly such women as Susan Sarandon, Sigourney Weaver, and Demi Moore—and big-budget special effects. Scott emerges as a consummate English gentleman who acknowledges the legacy of the futuristic *Blade Runner* and *Alien* but who also is adept at taking the pulse of contemporary American culture.

Unlike many of his colleagues in the U.S., Scott did not attend film school. Instead, he developed his visual sensibility at London's Royal College of Art. Years in television production gave Scott the clout and confidence to revitalize feature filmmaking. He hit the jackpot with *Alien* but ran into financial and logistical difficulties with *Blade Runner* and *Legend*. In response he shifted his attention to more contemporary genres, offering a continental perspective on America in *Black Rain* and *Thelma & Louise*. By the late 1990s Scott had achieved both critical and commercial success with Oscar-winning films *Gladiator* and *Black Hawk Down*.

Laurence F. Knapp, Highland Park, Illinois, is an instructor and lecturer on film studies at Northwestern University and is the editor of *Brian De Palma: Interviews* (University Press of Mississippi). Andrea F. Kulas, Park Ridge, Illinois, is an independent media consultant and a contributor to *1001 Films You Must See Before You Die*.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

Career-spanning interviews with the award-winning director of Blade Runner, Gladiator, and Kingdom of Heaven

From the Inside Flap

Collected interviews with the British filmmaker of the sci-fi classics Blade Runner and Alien

About the Author

Laurence Knapp is a lecturer on film studies at North-western University and editor of Brian De Palma: Interviews Andrea Kulas is an independent media consultant and contributor to 1001 Films You Must See Before You Die.

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