



Carl Theodor Dreyer s Gertrud: The Moving Word

By James Schamus

University of Washington Press, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 173 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. If there is one film in the canon of Carl Theodor Dreyer that can be said to be, as Jacques Lacan might put it, his most painfully enjoyable, it is Gertrud. The film s Paris premier in 1964 was covered by the Danish press as a national scandal; it was lambasted on its release for its lugubrious pace, wooden acting, and old-fashioned, stuffy milieu. Only later, when a younger generation of critics came to its defense, did the method in what appeared to be Dreyer s madness begin to become apparent. To make vivid just what was at stake for Dreyer, and still for us, in his final work, James Schamus focuses on a single moment in the film. He follows a trail of references and allusions back through a number of thinkers and artists (Boccaccio, Lessing, Philostratus, Charcot, and others) to reveal the richness and depth of Dreyer s work--and the excitement that can accompany cinema studies when it opens itself up to other disciplines and media. Throughout, Schamus pays particular attention to Dreyer s lifelong obsession with...



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