



Reconstructing Strangelove: Inside Stanley Kubrick's "Nightmare Comedy"

By Michael Broderick

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During his career Stanley Kubrick became renowned for undertaking lengthy and exhaustive research prior to the production of all his films. In the lead-up to what would eventually become *Dr. Strangelove* (1964), Kubrick read voraciously and amassed a substantial library of works on the nuclear age. With rare access to unpublished materials, this volume assesses *Dr. Strangelove's* narrative accuracy, consulting recently declassified Cold War nuclear-policy documents alongside interviews with Kubrick's collaborators. It focuses on the myths surrounding the film, such as the origins and transformation of the "straight" script versions into what Kubrick termed a "nightmare comedy." It assesses Kubrick's account of collaborating with the writers Peter George and Terry Southern against their individual remembrances and material archives. Peter Sellers's improvisations are compared to written scripts and daily continuity reports, showcasing the actor's brilliant talent and variations.

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Editorial Review

Review

Based on groundbreaking archival research, this study offers many new insights into the making, marketing, and reception of Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece. It is a revelation not only for Kubrick fans and scholars but also for anyone interested in this extraordinary movie.

(Peter Kramer, University of East Anglia)

Essential reading...a fresh masterful take on Kubrick's magnum opus and the atomic age that produced it. This book is a nimble, eye-opening reappraisal full of new insight, deep research and great intelligence.

(Junot Díaz, Fiction Editor at the *Boston Review* and Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

About the Author

Mick Broderick is associate professor of media analysis in the School of Arts at Murdoch University, Western Australia. He is the author of *Nuclear Movies*, editor of *Hibakusha Cinema: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the Nuclear Image in Japanese Film*, and coeditor of *Trauma, Media, Art: New Perspectives* and *Interrogating Trauma: Collective Suffering in Global Art and Media*.

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