

MIXED MEDIA

Kubrick's archives unlocked | A suburban small-game safari | Mozart's sonatas reconsidered | Steve McQueen remembered



books

THE STANLEY KUBRICK ARCHIVES; Taschen; \$200

The first half of this monolithic coffee-table book contains no text. Instead, it consists of 800 frame enlargements pulled from Stanley Kubrick's 12 feature films, from his hard-boiled debut, *Killer's Kiss* (1955), to his half-baked swan song, *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999). Many of the funniest, sickest, most grandiose Kubrickian moments are represented: the climactic battle in *Spartacus*, Major Kong astride a hydrogen bomb in *Dr. Strangelove* and Astronaut Dave's showdown with supercomputer

HAL in *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The book's second half features a wealth of essays and interviews, plus an overwhelming collection of primary materials pulled from the director's personal archives. There are photographs of his own scripts, complete with scribbled revisions and sketches, candid snapshots from the sets, storyboards, promotional posters, lists of objections from film censors (about *Lolita*, of course), costumes and scores of the "continuity Polaroids" directors take to ensure that sets, makeup, bloodstains and so forth remain identical over days of shooting. Most fascinating is Appendix A, which features the film projects Kubrick started but

never shot. He spent years developing a Napoleon epic, filling cabinet after cabinet with treatments, scripts, sketches and correspondence with historians, much of it reproduced here. Almost as much effort went into *A.I.*, the story of a Pinocchio-like robot boy's quest to become human. That film was slated to be his next project after *Eyes Wide Shut*, but he died before production could begin. (Steven Spielberg finished the job in 2001.) To sweeten the deal for collectors, each of the 3,500 copies in the book's first printing will include a 12-frame strip sliced from Kubrick's own 70 mm print of *2001*, sheathed in an archival sleeve on the book's first page. —THOMAS JACKSON