

The Stanley Kubrick Archives

Edited by Alison Castle

TASCHEN £100.00/\$200.00

Given that this book has the approximate size, weight and cost of a small tombstone, you'd expect it to be nothing less than the ultimate memorial to one of the twentieth century's great directors. And, even though its large format means that you can only read it while sitting at a proportionately large table, it doesn't disappoint. Alison Castle spent two years rummaging through Kubrick's archives in order to create a comprehensive documentary of his creative process. And at the same time, she has put together perhaps the most intimate portrait yet of a famously private man.

The book is split into two sections. The first is a collection of stills from Kubrick's 12 feature films (except for his first feature, *Fear and Desire*, which the director withdrew from circulation). If you want to make the book less heavy and more manageable, this is the part you should tear out and throw away. The second section is what makes it worth buying; it's a collection of essays about and interviews with Kubrick, interspersed with notes, photographs and scribbles from the archives. As in a real archive, you can spend hours getting lost in here. Not only does this section take us several steps closer to understanding the man who made those films, it also justifies the preposterously overblown format which here allows all the notes and the typescripts to be presented in a clear and unusually legible manner.