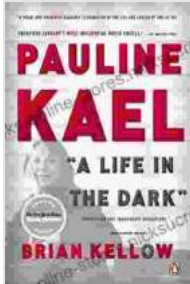


Pauline Kael: A Life in the Dark - A Comprehensive Exploration of the Legendary Film Critic's Life and Work



Pauline Kael: A Life in the Dark by Brian Kellow

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2734 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 433 pages



Pauline Kael was one of the most influential film critics of the 20th century. Her writing was incisive, witty, and often controversial. She had a profound impact on the way people thought about cinema, and her work continues to be read and studied today.

This article provides a comprehensive exploration of Kael's life and work. We will discuss her early life, her career as a film critic, her personal life, and her legacy.

Early Life

Pauline Kael was born on June 19, 1919, in New York City. Her parents were Jewish immigrants from Poland. Kael's father was a garment worker, and her mother was a homemaker. Kael grew up in a working-class neighborhood in the Bronx.

Kael attended Hunter College, where she studied English and philosophy. She also took courses at the New School for Social Research. After graduating from college, Kael worked as a teacher and a social worker.

Career as a Film Critic

Kael's career as a film critic began in the early 1950s. She wrote for a number of small magazines and newspapers before landing a job at The New Yorker in 1963. Kael quickly became one of the most influential film critics in the country.

Kael's writing was known for its intelligence, wit, and passion. She was not afraid to express her opinions, even if they were unpopular. Kael was a champion of independent and foreign films, and she was often critical of Hollywood blockbusters.

Kael's writing had a profound impact on the way people thought about cinema. She helped to raise the profile of film criticism, and she encouraged people to take movies seriously. Kael also helped to shape the way that movies were made. Her criticism helped to push filmmakers to take more risks and to create more challenging and innovative work.

Kael wrote for The New Yorker for over two decades. She retired from the magazine in 1991. After her retirement, Kael continued to write about film for a number of other publications.

Personal Life

Kael was married three times. Her first marriage was to William Kael, a social worker. They divorced in 1950. Kael's second marriage was to George Steiner, a literary critic. They divorced in 1974. Kael's third

marriage was to John Leonard, a film critic. They were married from 1980 until Kael's death in 2001.

Kael had two children, a son and a daughter. Her son, James Kael, died in 1987. Her daughter, Gina Kael, is a writer and editor.

Legacy

Pauline Kael died on September 3, 2001, at the age of 82. She is considered to be one of the most important film critics of the 20th century. Her writing helped to shape the way that people thought about cinema, and she continues to be read and studied today.

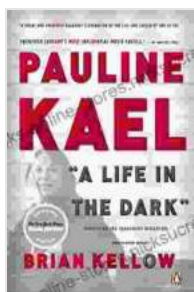
Kael's legacy is complex and controversial. She was a brilliant critic, but she was also a polarizing figure. Some people admired her for her intelligence and her passion, while others criticized her for her negativity and her elitism.

Despite the controversy, there is no doubt that Pauline Kael was one of the most influential film critics of all time. Her writing helped to raise the profile of film criticism, and she encouraged people to take movies seriously. Kael also helped to shape the way that movies were made. Her criticism helped to push filmmakers to take more risks and to create more challenging and innovative work.

Pauline Kael was a brilliant and complex figure. She was a pioneering film critic who helped to shape the way that people thought about cinema. Her writing was incisive, witty, and often controversial. Kael was a champion of independent and foreign films, and she was often critical of Hollywood blockbusters.

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