

Taking D.H. Lawrence to the movies

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ALFRED -- A new book by Louis K. Greiff, professor of English and chair of the Alfred University English Department, examines the movies engendered by D.H. Lawrence's novels and stories since 1950. In "D.H. Lawrence: Fifty Years on Film" (297 pages, \$39.95), released in June 2001 by Southern Illinois University Press, Greiff examines the nine feature films based on Lawrence's works and the one based on his life. "The first scholar to link Lawrence and film in a book-length study, Greiff deals with the films as adaptations, as cultural or historical documents, and as independent works of art," the publisher says. For each film, "Greiff presents intriguing background information about the director, the performers, and (the process of) getting the movie produced and filmed." "Why Lawrence, and why film? Greiff knew he wanted to specialize in the modern British period, but his choice of Lawrence for the subject of his doctoral dissertation stemmed from "an especially successful seminar on him and Thomas Hardy at Syracuse University," he says. "Once on the Alfred faculty, I've continued to offer a Lawrence course every few years, most recently last fall (2000.)" As for film, "Probably it was coming to Alfred when David Ohara was chair of English that moved me in the direction of film. I think David has been a major influence on many of us ... by way of his interest in film as an art form rather than simply an entertainment medium. My main film interest has been in adaptation -- that is, films based on texts." "When I got started, with a major boost from (the endowed) Fred H. Gertz Chair, I was very surprised that no one had yet written a book-length study of the ten Lawrence feature films and dozen or so television productions," he comments. "My own book focuses on the feature films but gets into the major TV productions as well."#####