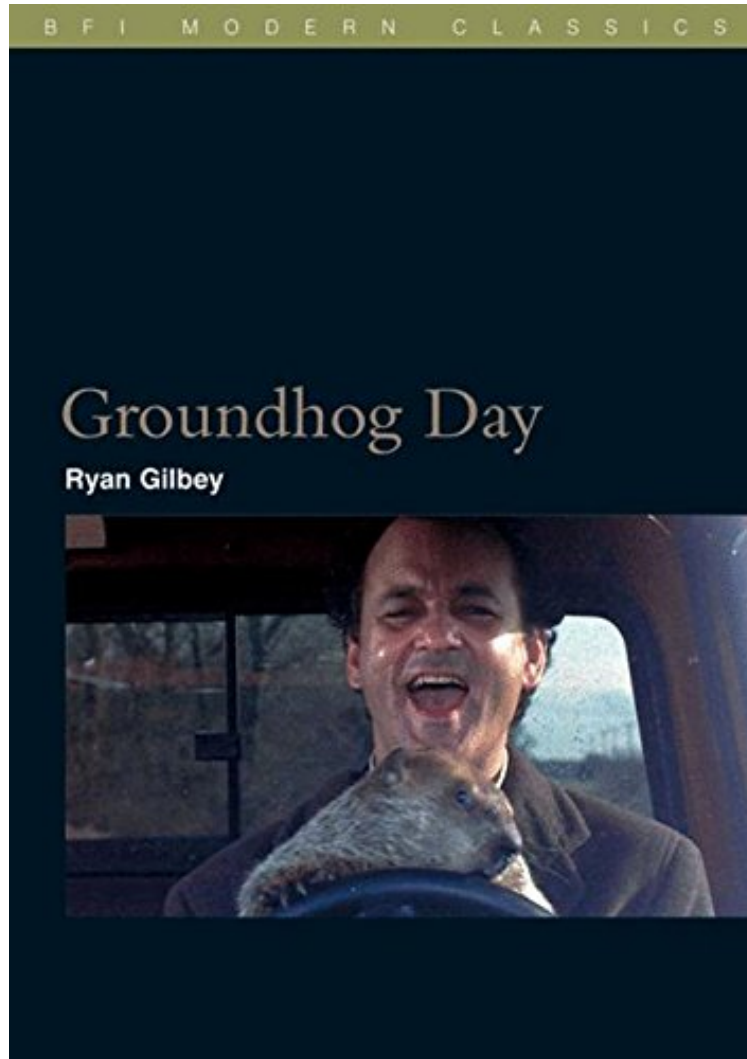


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Groundhog Day (BFI Modern Classics)

Ryan Gilbey

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Ryan Gilbey : Groundhog Day (BFI Modern Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Groundhog Day (BFI Modern Classics):

14 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A book to read over and over and over again By Michael Samerdyke Ryan Gilbey has written a splendid book that can only increase one's enjoyment of one of the most enjoyable movies of the Nineties. He begins by showing how the project came together. (The original script was rather darker, more SF than comedy.) His analysis of the movie itself is serious but never pretentious, yet never betrays the humor of the film. (His comments on the "Ned Ryerson" character made me laugh.) His discussion of Bill Murray's performance is wonderful. Finally, Gilbey briefly sketches the influence of "Groundhog Day" on subsequent movies.

All in all, a thorough and most enjoyable and informative book, a fine addition to the BFI series. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Best Movie of the 1990s By Jimboy "Groundhog Day" never gets old. I've watched it over and over, and its truths never fray. It's our generation's "It's a Wonderful Life." And Bill Murray's role as the boorish oaf who finds redemption in time works in perfect synch with his real personality. Everybody loves "Groundhog Day." 12 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Fifteen pages of content mercilessly stretched into a booklet By R. Thompson On opening the box from I was surprised at how small the book was, it should be called a booklet. I believe this is the first publication I have ever seen that numbers the first page of text as number 7 and includes the first pages of the book such as "First published in 2004..." in the page count. It's as if even they realized how short it was and were desperately trying to puff up the page count to make the cost seem somehow worth it. They don't succeed. The description of the book says: "Ryan Gilbey begins his account of Groundhog Day with the long and unlucky gestation of the script by Danny Rubin, who was interviewed for this book..." That's actually a very cleverly written sentence, it made me think this book was a detailed account of such things. But the author describes this very "long" gestation in less than eleven pages and that's pretty much the sum total of the behind the scenes content for this book. There are a few more anecdotes here and there, but the bulk of this booklet is essentially the author describing what happens on screen, "Cut to the radio alarm clock on the bedside table. It could be any radio alarm, any table. The time is 5:59. No - now it's 6:00..." Throw in some uninspired comments, some biographical info on Bill Murray, and a multitude of rather pointless film history references, and there are your 81 pages of the book. If you're a fan of the movie Groundhog Day you may be tempted to buy this book to find out more about the film, but you would honestly be better served surfing the web for a few minutes. This "book" might have made an interesting magazine article but it has been pulled and stretched into 81 pages of uninspired and pseudo-academic reflection.

It is becoming clearer and clearer that Groundhog Day (1993), directed by Harold Ramis, is one of the masterpieces of 1990s Hollywood cinema. One of the first films to use a science-fiction premise as the basis for romantic comedy, it tells the story of a splenetic TV weatherman, Phil Connors (Bill Murray at his disreputable best), who finds himself repeating indefinitely one drab day in the milk-and-cookies town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. At first glance it seems like a feel-good parable in the tradition of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* (1943). But on closer inspection it is a deeply ambivalent fable, with strong echoes of Samuel Beckett: before he finds redemption Phil must plumb the depths of suicidal despair - and even after he has survived this, the film offers no guarantees that he will live happily ever after. Ryan Gilbey begins his account of Groundhog Day with the long and unlucky gestation of the script by Danny Rubin (who was interviewed specially for this book) which formed the basis of the finished film. Gilbey celebrates the inspired casting of Murray, alongside Andie MacDowell and less well-known actors such as Stephen Tobolowsky (who plays the reptilian sa

From the Back Cover It is becoming clearer and clearer that Groundhog Day (1993), directed by Harold Ramis, is one of the masterpieces of 1990s Hollywood cinema. One of the first films to use a science-fiction premise as the basis for romantic comedy, it tells the story of a splenetic TV weatherman, Phil Connors (Bill Murray at his disreputable best), who finds himself repeating indefinitely one drab day in the milk-and-cookies town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. At first glance it seems like a feel-good parable in the tradition of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* (1943). But on closer inspection it is a deeply ambivalent fable, with strong echoes of Samuel Beckett: before he finds redemption Phil must plumb the depths of suicidal despair - and even after he has survived this, the film offers no guarantees that he will live happily ever after. Ryan Gilbey begins his account of Groundhog Day with the long and unlucky gestation of the script by Danny Rubin (who was interviewed specially for this book) which formed the basis of the finished film. Gilbey celebrates the inspired casting of Murray, alongside Andie MacDowell and less well-known actors such as Stephen Tobolowsky (who plays the reptilian sa About the Author RYAN GILBEY writes on film for the Independent, the Guardian, and Sight and Sound and is author of *It Don't Worry Me* (2004).