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Production Culture: Industrial Reflexivity and Critical Practice in Film and Television

By John Thornton Caldwell

Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Production Culture: Industrial Reflexivity and Critical Practice in Film and Television, John Thornton Caldwell, In Production Culture, John Thornton Caldwell investigates the cultural practices and belief systems of Los Angeles-based film and video production workers: not only those in prestigious positions such as producer and director but also many others, including gaffers, editors, and camera operators. Borrowing insights from cultural anthropology, Caldwell analyzes the stories workers tell and the rituals they enact to make sense of their labour and to critique the film and TV industry and the culture writ large. Far from being guarded, Hollywood executives and craftspeople work within an industry that obsessively reflects on itself and constantly exposes itself to the public. Caldwell suggests ways that scholarship might benefit by acknowledging the extent to which the industry first theorizes and critiques itself as part of economic and industrial habit. Caldwell's fieldwork combines interviews with industry workers; observations of sets and workplaces; and analyses of TV shows, industry documents, economic data, and promotional materials to show how film and video workers function in a radically transformed and unstable post-network industry. He chronicles how industry workers have responded to volatile...



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