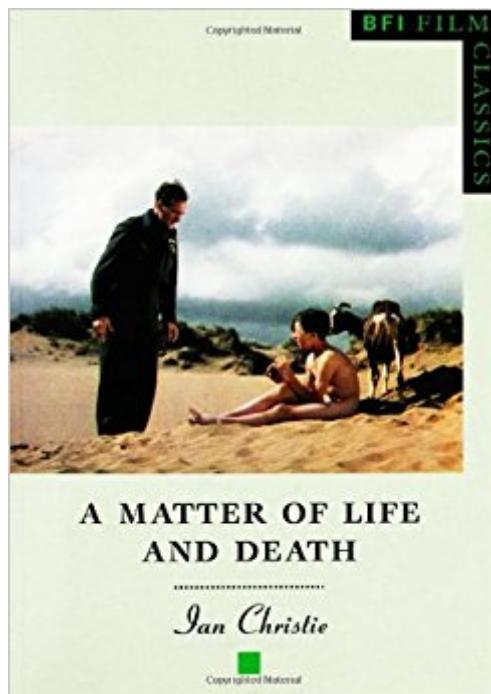


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A Matter Of Life And Death (BFI Film Classics)



Synopsis

A dazzling fantasy produced in the aftermath of World War Two, "A Matter of Life and Death" (1946), directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, starred David Niven as an RAF pilot poised between life and death. This book looks in detail at the making of the film.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A dazzling fantasy produced in the aftermath of World War Two, "A Matter of Life and Death" (1946), released in the US as "Stairway to Heaven", is one of the greatest achievements of co-directors Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. Starring David Niven as an RAF pilot poised between life and death the film is a haunting meditation on love, grief and the legacy of war. This book looks in detail at the making of the film as well as locating it in the broadest traditions of British art.

Professor Ian Christie of Birkbeck College, London is the author of *Arrows of Desire* (1994) and most recently the editor of *Gilliam on Gilliam* (Faber 1999).

This is a terrific series..Brief, valuable info and to the point

...but I was really hoping for more graphics from the film. It does do a great job on the history of the film, which always impressed me with its fantasy sequences and early use of color combined with monochrome to delineate between real life and Peter's mind-fantasies. As there is no other book on

this film, I recommend it, but down 1-star for lackluster graphics.

This is a very good book on a very interesting and good movie. Christie explores the origins of "A Matter of Life and Death," discusses its attitudes toward time and how the film uses color. I especially liked his examination of the film's historical context, namely how although it was inspired by WWII issues, it was still relevant when it came out in the early years of the Cold War. (Christie quotes a Soviet review of the movie which is quite interesting.) This book is strongly recommended for those who love the movies of Powell and Pressburger.

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