



## Blade Runner (Philosophers on Film)

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Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* is widely regarded as a "masterpiece of modern cinema" and is regularly ranked as one of the great films of all time. Set in a dystopian future where the line between human beings and 'replicants' is blurred, the film raises a host of philosophical questions about what it is to be human, the possibility of moral agency and freedom in 'created' life forms, and the capacity of cinema to make a genuine contribution to our engagement with these kinds of questions.

This volume of specially commissioned chapters systematically explores and addresses these issues from a philosophical point of view. Beginning with a helpful introduction, the seven chapters examine the following questions:

- How is the theme of death explored in *Blade Runner* and with what implications for our understanding of the human condition?
- What can we learn about the relationship between emotion and reason from the depiction of the 'replicants' in *Blade Runner*?
- How are memory, empathy, and moral agency related in *Blade Runner*?
- How does the style and 'mood' of *Blade Runner* bear upon its thematic and philosophical significance?
- Is *Blade Runner* a meditation on the nature of film itself?

Including a brief biography of the director and a detailed list of references to other writings on the film, *Blade Runner* is essential reading for students – indeed anyone - interested in philosophy and film studies.

Contributors: Colin Allen, Peter Atterton, Amy Coplan, David Davies, Berys Gaut, Stephen Mulhall, C. D. C. Reeve.

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