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50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

BLUE MOVIE

by Terry Southern

*With a new introduction featuring
Marianne Faithfull in conversation
with Nile Southern*

The final installment in a quartet of Southern reissues



“[Southern] helped to create an America brimming with newfound sexual sophistication, urbane coolness and casual iconoclasm. Indeed, though he is largely ignored today, it is tempting to say that he was the dominant American writer of the decade.”

— [Washington Post](#)

“First published in 1970, Southern’s novel deserves a new audience, and should find favour with fans of Bret Easton Ellis and Chuck Palahniuk, who share his taste for the macabre and flair for black comedy.” — [Independent](#)

“Terry Southern writes a mean, coolly deliberate, and murderous prose.”

— [Norman Mailer](#)

“Terry Southern is vastly talented, a master of macabre humor.”

— [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Fifty years after it was first published, Terry Southern’s uproarious masterpiece **BLUE MOVIE**, 50th Anniversary Edition (December 15, 2020; Grove Press; ISBN: 978-0-8021-5837-6; \$16 paperback) comes at a uniquely chilling moment in our history, when Hollywood production

has nearly come to a screeching halt and human contact feels more risky than welcome. Southern would probably warn us before we get too nostalgic for our movie machine as it was; there is a reason *Vice* said, “**BLUE MOVIE** portrays the Hollywood system as a farce run by corpse-fuckers.” A jarring realization that comes across instead, in typical Southern style, as irresistible entertainment. This anniversary edition is introduced by a conversation between Nile Southern and Marianne Faithfull that ranges from Southern’s inspiration in Stanley Kubrick and European cinema to cancel culture and the timeless art of satirizing, as Nile says, “the ills of sick society.” Faithfull believed that was what Terry Southern was called to do: “He was born to be that—to do that. That’s all. To be a great satirist, and to annoy people.”

Southern eviscerates the burgeoning 1960s Hollywood porn era with the introduction of Boris Adrian, known as King B., an Oscar-winning director sporting an inflated ego and an even bigger dream: to shoot the dirtiest and most expensive X-rated movie ever made. Dispatched to Liechtenstein (where his wily producer Sid Krassman has negotiated the exclusive rights to show the film for ten years) and fueled by suspiciously rejuvenating vitamin B-12 injections, the set of *Faces of Love* is fraught with top-drawer talent, monstrous egos, studio spies, sex working stunt-doubles, and raging libidos—the kind of frenzied situation that could only come from the imagination of the irrepressible Terry Southern. Of all Southern’s novels, **BLUE MOVIE** is Faithfull’s favorite: “It made me laugh so much, and is so erudite, with rock solid faith in life itself.” Southern’s trademark instinct to skewer, to satirize is on full display in this rollicking, wildly erotic, and hilarious novel that proves equally difficult to put down and impossible to forget.

Terry Southern (1924-1995) is the bestselling author of *Candy*, *Flash and Filigree*, *Blue Movie*, and *Red-Dirt Marijuana and Other Tastes*. An Academy Award-nominated screenwriter, his film credits include *Dr. Strangelove*, *Easy Rider*, *Barbarella*, *The Loved One*, and *The Cincinnati Kid*, as well as an adaptation of *The Magic Christian*.

Marianne Faithfull is an English musician, writer, and actor.

BLUE MOVIE

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