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## John Woo: Interviews

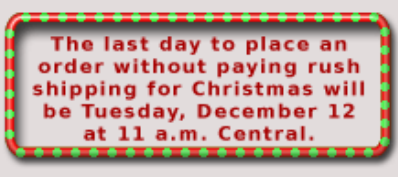
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"I never try to glorify the violence. I try to never use the violence to please the audience. I like to use the action to send a message. . . ."

Director John Woo (b. 1946) reinvented the modern action movie and helped open the door for Asian filmmakers to the Western world. His hyper-violent, highly choreographed style made him a box office powerhouse, a respected auteur, and a revered figure among fellow directors.

First discovered by Western audiences through his Hong Kong films *The Killer* and *Hard Boiled*, Woo introduced the world to a new brand of psychologically frenzied action film. After coming to the United States in the early 1990s, Woo produced a trilogy of hard-charging action films--*Broken Arrow*, *Face/Off*, and *Mission: Impossible II*--that were both popular and critically acclaimed. But Woo's signature bullet ballets, his kinetic, blood-spattered action sequences, represent a dichotomy in the director's philosophy. *John Woo: Interviews* reveals a peace-loving, devoutly religious man at odds with his reputation as the master of cinematic violence.

Unprecedented access to the director helped editor Robert K. Elder create in *John Woo: Interviews* the first authoritative English-language chronicle of Woo's career.

Robert K. Elder writes about film, the arts, travel, and music for the *Chicago Tribune*. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Premiere*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Boston Globe*, *Gear*, the *Oregonian*, and many other publications. A member of the Chicago Film Critics Association, Elder teaches film at the Facets Film School in Chicago.

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