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## **Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the Critical Insights Series; *Critical Insights: David Foster Wallace***

Edited by Philip Coleman from Auburn Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), *Critical Insights: David Foster Wallace* highlights the author's extraordinary volume and range of critical responses that Wallace's work has generated since the 1990s until today. David Foster Wallace's writing started to attract serious critical attention early in his career and with the publication of *Infinite Jest* in 1996, his reputation as an author whose work merited scholarly scrutiny was secured.

Since his tragic death in 2008, David Foster Wallace's work has been the subject of an almost overwhelming array of critical analyses, from many different perspectives, and it continues to inspire and provoke new responses. The publication of posthumous works, such as *The Pale King* (2011), and *Both Flesh and Not: Essays* (2012), together with new re-arrangements of earlier work means that the field of Wallace studies is one in which the corpus of primary materials cannot yet be said to be complete. While it is unlikely that a previously unpublished novel remains to be discovered in the Wallace archive, the intense scholarly interest in the author's manuscripts and papers, together with the work being done on a daily basis by scholars from around the world, means that the critical conversation about Wallace's work is, in a very real sense, in a constant state of process and re-negotiation. The essays in this title extend the critical conversation about the nature and value of David Foster Wallace's work in several key respects.

In **Critical Contexts**, these essays offer new insights into three areas that are of real importance in Wallace studies. Kiki Benzon begins by considering Wallace's work within a broad historical context that is international in scope, but the critical lens she uses is then narrowed in Clare Hayes-Brady's essay so that a particularly important aspect of the author's work can be subjected to close critical attention. Adam Kelly explores Wallace's critical reception to date in his essay for this collection. He explains the way that the critical reception to Wallace has moved through three main phases of development since the 1900s. Kelly's essay provides a detailed overview of the field of Wallace studies and also points to areas that are only beginning to be given critical attention. Mark Sheridan re-examines two of the major influences in Wallace's development as a writer, Thomas Pynchon and John Barth which invites readers to reconsider importance of these figures in the evolution of Wallace's early voice and style but also affirming Wallace's position in relation to the traditions of late-modernist and postmodern American fiction.

The main section of the book-which consists of diverse **Critical Readings** of Wallace's texts-examines the influences and development of his writing. The first ten essays in this section explore Wallace's work in a broadly chronological way, grouping texts together in terms of genre where appropriate. Beginning with Aisling O'Gara's examination of Wallace's first published, book-length work, *The Broom of the System*, it then moves on to Ellerhoff's consideration of *Girl with Curious Hair*, his first collection of short fiction. From here, the collection provides two detailed readings of *Infinite Jest*, by Hering and Resar, before David Coughlan and Charles Nixon examines Wallace's later collections of short fiction

*Brief Interviews with Hideous Men and Oblivion.* Ron Callan and Ira Nadel examine the range of Wallace's nonfiction, including *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*, *Consider the Lobster*, and *Both Flesh and Not*, in their essays before Tim Groenland and Jorge Araya address important formal and thematic concerns in relation to Wallace's posthumously published novel, *The Pale King*. However, in the books final two essays by Aine Mahon and Aengus Woods, "Critical Readings" is brought to an open-ended conclusion through considerations of issues that were of great and recurring concern to Wallace throughout his career in many of the aforementioned texts.

Each essay in *Critical Insights: David Foster Wallace* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of "Works Cited," along with endnotes. Finally, the volume's appendixes offer a section of useful reference resources including a chronology of Wallace's life, a complete list of works by David Foster Wallace, an annotated bibliography for readers seeking to study more about the author in greater depth, and a subject index.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most-studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: David Foster Wallace* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

#### **Free Online with Print Purchase**

In addition, *Critical Insights: David Foster Wallace* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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*Critical Insights: David Foster Wallace*

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