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Performing Arts - Film

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San Filippo, Maria. **The B word: bisexuality in contemporary film and television.** Indiana, 2013. 281p bibl index afp  
ISBN 9780253008794, \$75.00; ISBN 9780253008855 pbk, \$25.00; ISBN 9780253008923 e-book, contract publisher for price

Refreshingly, San Filippo (American studies, Wellesley College) does not simply "spot the bisexuals" in film and television. Instead, she theorizes opportunities to see bisexuality within a greater straight-or-gay cultural imperative. The ways in which she considers bisexuality as a marketing strategy, a plot device in contemporary television, and a viewing strategy are fascinating. In San Filippo's analysis, the bisexual is not a type or a character, but a possibility--a zone where gender and sex roles can be evaluated or changed. This book contains compelling texts covering a variety of subjects, from women's prison movies to *Mulholland Drive* (2001) to *Rescue Me* (2004-11). The most interesting chapter might be "Of Cowboys and Cocksman," which focuses on Hollywood bromances in the films *Brokeback Mountain* (2005) and *Wedding Crashers* (2005). San Filippo is well-read in feminist and queer theory, and the book is sprinkled with ideas from those fields, which makes this most suitable for graduate-level reading. It can, however, serve as undergraduate coursework for students with a solid background in those subjects. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty. -- *R. P. Kinsman, independent scholar*