



# David Lean

*Howard Maxford*

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## **David Lean** Howard Maxford

Oscar-winning director David Lean was responsible for some of the most enduring images in British cinema, including the romantic clinches between Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson in *Brief Encounter* and Pip's memorable dash across the marshes in *Great expectations*. Lean became renowned for his visual epics, painting the cinematic screen in such films as *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Doctor Zhivago*. Yet, despite the large canvas of these masterpieces, Lean never lost sight of the human story within them. In his study of Lean's career, Howard Maxford takes behind-the-scenes look at each of the director's films, chronicling their making and their subsequent reception by both audiences and critics. Lean's early work as a film editor, which led to his comission by Noel Coward to co-direct the landmark war drama *In Which We Serve*, is examined, along with Lean's self-imposed 14-year exile after a savage reception from critics to his penultimate film. His exile ended triumphantly with the release of *a Passage to India*. Lean, the man away from the camera, is also revealed, including his six marriages and his strict Quaker upbringing. An informative critical guide, this David Lean companion offers a detailed examination of the work of one of cinema's true greats.

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