

# james spader less than zero

James Spader Less Than Zero: A Look at the Actor's Role in the Cult Classic

**james spader less than zero** is a phrase that resonates with fans of the iconic 1987 film *\*Less Than Zero\**, a drama that captured the dark underbelly of Los Angeles youth culture in the 1980s. James Spader's involvement in the film, though not as a lead, left a memorable impression and helped solidify his reputation as an actor capable of portraying complex, troubled characters. This article delves into James Spader's role in *\*Less Than Zero\**, the significance of the film in his early career, and why this cult classic remains an important piece of 80s cinema.

## James Spader and Less Than Zero: Setting the Scene

*\*Less Than Zero\** is based on Bret Easton Ellis's novel of the same name, a story that explores themes of excess, disillusionment, and the destructive lifestyles of wealthy Los Angeles teenagers. The film adaptation, released in 1987, stars Andrew McCarthy, Jami Gertz, Robert Downey Jr., and James Spader in supporting roles. While many remember Robert Downey Jr.'s portrayal of the troubled Julian Wells, James Spader's character, Rip, also adds a unique dynamic to the story.

Spader, known for his intense and often enigmatic screen presence, plays Rip, a wealthy and somewhat detached character who navigates the same toxic environment as the protagonist Clay (Andrew McCarthy). His performance, though not central, contributes to the film's authentic depiction of the moral decay and emotional numbness pervasive among the youth depicted.

## The Role of Rip: James Spader's Character in Less Than Zero

Rip, as portrayed by James Spader, is an intriguing figure. He embodies a certain aloofness that contrasts with the vulnerability of other characters. Unlike Julian, whose addiction and personal struggles are front and center, Rip's detachment highlights another facet of the emptiness that plagues the characters. Spader's nuanced performance captures this subtle yet powerful aspect of the story.

Rip isn't a hero or a villain; he is a representation of the casual cruelty and superficiality that defines the social circles depicted in the film. Spader's ability to convey this without overt dramatics showcases his skill as an actor, even at this early stage in his career.

# The Impact of *Less Than Zero* on James Spader's Career

Before *Less Than Zero*, James Spader was already gaining recognition for roles in films like *Pretty in Pink* and *Mannequin*, but his part in this film helped him transition into more mature, complex characters. The movie's gritty themes and Spader's portrayal of Rip aligned with his later work in more psychologically intense roles.

## From Teen Dramas to Complex Characters

James Spader's role in *Less Than Zero* can be seen as a stepping stone toward the kind of characters he would later become famous for. Known for his performances in *Sex, Lies, and Videotape*, *Boston Legal*, and *The Blacklist*, Spader often plays characters who are enigmatic, morally ambiguous, or deeply flawed. Rip's character foreshadows this trajectory, giving audiences a glimpse of Spader's range and depth.

## Why *Less Than Zero* Still Matters to Spader's Fans

Fans of James Spader often revisit *Less Than Zero* to see an early example of his talent. The film's cult status combined with Spader's subtle yet impactful role makes it a must-watch for those interested in his career development. It also offers insight into the cultural landscape of the 1980s, an era of excess and disillusionment that Spader's career has often intersected with in various ways.

## Exploring the Themes of *Less Than Zero* Through Spader's Performance

*Less Than Zero* is not just a coming-of-age story; it's a commentary on the dark side of privilege and the loss of innocence. James Spader's portrayal of Rip helps deepen the film's exploration of these themes.

## The Emptiness of Privilege

Rip's character is a product of his environment—wealthy, disconnected, and indifferent to the suffering around him. Spader's subtle performance captures the hollowness that can accompany a life of material excess without emotional connection. This theme resonates throughout the film and is a critical lens through which to view Spader's role.

## **The Facade of Control and Power**

While Rip may appear in control, his detachment suggests otherwise. Spader's nuanced acting conveys the underlying vulnerability and insecurity beneath the cool exterior. This duality is a hallmark of many of Spader's characters and is effectively showcased in his role in *\*Less Than Zero\**.

## **James Spader Less Than Zero: Behind the Scenes and Production Insights**

Understanding the context of *\*Less Than Zero\**'s production sheds light on why the film and Spader's performance have endured in popularity.

### **The 1980s Hollywood Landscape**

The mid-80s were a time when Hollywood was exploring darker, more introspective stories about youth culture, moving away from the pure escapism of earlier teen films. *\*Less Than Zero\** fit into this trend, and casting actors like James Spader, who could bring complexity to their roles, was crucial.

### **Spader's Approach to the Role**

Interviews and behind-the-scenes anecdotes suggest that Spader approached Rip with a focus on subtlety. Rather than overt emotional displays, he chose to convey Rip's feelings through body language and minimal dialogue, which added layers to the character without overwhelming the film's pacing.

## **Where to Watch Less Than Zero for James Spader Fans**

For anyone interested in exploring James Spader's early work, *\*Less Than Zero\** is readily available on popular streaming platforms and DVD collections. Watching the film with an eye on Spader's performance offers a richer viewing experience, especially for those familiar with his later, more prominent roles.

## **Streaming Platforms and Availability**

- Amazon Prime Video
- iTunes
- Google Play Movies
- DVD/Blu-ray collections

These platforms often provide the best quality versions of the film, with bonus features that sometimes include cast interviews and behind-the-scenes content.

## **The Lasting Legacy of James Spader in *Less Than Zero***

While James Spader's role in *Less Than Zero* may not be the largest, its impact is undeniable. It marks an important moment in his career and contributes to the film's enduring status as a cult classic. For fans and film enthusiasts alike, revisiting this performance offers valuable insights into the evolution of a beloved actor and the cultural context of 1980s America.

In many ways, James Spader's portrayal of Rip serves as a quiet but powerful reminder of the complexities beneath the surface of wealth and privilege, a theme that continues to resonate in cinema today. Whether you're a longtime fan or discovering the film for the first time, *Less Than Zero* remains a compelling piece of film history where James Spader's talent quietly shines.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is James Spader in the movie 'Less Than Zero'?**

James Spader plays the character Julian Wells, a wealthy and troubled young man struggling with drug addiction in the movie 'Less Than Zero.'

### **What is the plot of 'Less Than Zero' starring James Spader?**

'Less Than Zero' follows the story of Clay, who returns home from college to find his friends, including Julian (played by James Spader), deeply affected by drug addiction and a hedonistic lifestyle in 1980s Los Angeles.

### **How was James Spader's performance in 'Less Than**

## **Zero' received by critics?**

James Spader's performance in 'Less Than Zero' was praised for its raw and convincing portrayal of a drug-addicted youth, showcasing his ability to take on complex and dark roles early in his career.

## **Is 'Less Than Zero' based on a true story or a book?**

'Less Than Zero' is based on the 1985 novel of the same name by Bret Easton Ellis, depicting the disillusionment and moral decay of wealthy Los Angeles youth, with James Spader portraying one of the central characters.

## **What themes does James Spader's character explore in 'Less Than Zero'?**

James Spader's character, Julian Wells, explores themes of addiction, despair, and the consequences of excess, highlighting the darker side of the glamorous 1980s LA lifestyle.

## **Did James Spader's role in 'Less Than Zero' impact his acting career?**

Yes, James Spader's role in 'Less Than Zero' helped establish him as a talented actor capable of portraying complex, troubled characters, paving the way for his future success in film and television.

## **Additional Resources**

James Spader Less Than Zero: A Closer Look at His Role in the 1987 Cult Classic

**james spader less than zero** is a phrase that often draws attention from cinephiles interested in 1980s cinema, particularly those fascinated by the era's portrayal of youth culture and disillusionment. Spader's involvement in the 1987 film "Less Than Zero" marked a significant moment in his early acting career, showcasing his ability to navigate complex and morally ambiguous characters. This article delves into James Spader's role in "Less Than Zero," analyzing his performance, the film's impact, and how the actor's portrayal contributes to the movie's enduring legacy.

## **James Spader's Role in Less Than Zero**

"Less Than Zero," directed by Marek Kaniévská and based on Bret Easton Ellis's novel of the same name, offers a stark, unflinching look at the lives of wealthy Los Angeles teens spiraling into drug addiction and existential malaise. James Spader plays the character Rip, a drug dealer who becomes a

pivotal figure in the protagonist Clay's (Andrew McCarthy) descent into the darker side of his privileged world.

Spader's portrayal of Rip is particularly notable for its subtlety and menace. Unlike the more overtly troubled or flamboyant characters around him, Rip exudes a calm, calculating presence that adds a layer of psychological complexity to the drug culture depicted in the film. This role allowed Spader to extend his range beyond the charming, somewhat quirky characters he was known for in earlier projects, positioning him as a serious actor capable of embodying morally ambiguous and dangerous personas.

## **The Significance of Spader's Performance**

James Spader's performance in "Less Than Zero" is often cited as one of the film's standout elements. While the movie itself received mixed reviews upon release, Spader's ability to infuse his character with depth and menace helped elevate the narrative. His portrayal of Rip is neither caricatured nor glamorized; instead, it presents a chilling, realistic depiction of a drug dealer who is both a symptom and an enabler of the movie's bleak worldview.

Critics have noted that Spader's nuanced acting brings a sense of authenticity to the film's exploration of addiction and moral decay. His interactions with other characters, especially the conflicted Clay and the vulnerable Blair (Jami Gertz), underscore the destructive influence Rip has on their lives. This dynamic is crucial to understanding the film's critique of excess and alienation among affluent youth.

## **Contextualizing James Spader Less Than Zero in 1980s Cinema**

The 1980s was a decade marked by a surge of films exploring youth culture, often focusing on themes such as rebellion, identity, and the consequences of materialism. "Less Than Zero" stands out as a darker, more somber entry in this genre, diverging from the lighthearted teen comedies and coming-of-age stories prevalent at the time.

James Spader's role fits neatly within this context as part of a broader trend where actors began portraying more complex, often flawed characters that reflected the era's anxieties. His depiction of Rip contributes to the film's raw portrayal of drug addiction, a subject that was gaining increased attention in public discourse during the 1980s due to the crack cocaine epidemic and growing awareness of substance abuse issues.

## Comparison with Other Roles

When comparing James Spader's role in "Less Than Zero" to his other early-career performances, such as in "Pretty in Pink" (1986), the contrast is stark. In "Pretty in Pink," Spader plays Steff, a snobbish yet somewhat sympathetic character, whereas Rip in "Less Than Zero" is far more menacing and morally ambiguous.

This shift highlights Spader's versatility as an actor and his willingness to tackle challenging roles that defy easy categorization. It also foreshadows the complex characters he would later portray in television series like "Boston Legal" and "The Blacklist," where his characters often operate within shades of gray rather than clear-cut heroism or villainy.

## The Cultural Impact of Less Than Zero and James Spader's Contribution

Though "Less Than Zero" did not achieve blockbuster status upon release, it has since garnered a cult following and is frequently revisited as a time capsule of 1980s excess and ennui. James Spader's involvement is a key factor in the film's lasting appeal, as his compelling performance provides a grounded counterpoint to the film's sometimes stylized depiction of drug culture.

The movie's themes resonate with contemporary audiences who view it as an early exploration of issues that remain relevant today, such as addiction, mental health, and the pressures facing young adults in affluent environments. Spader's Rip embodies many of these challenges, making his character a memorable and chilling representation of the darker side of privilege.

## Legacy in James Spader's Career

Looking back, "Less Than Zero" represents a foundational moment in James Spader's career. It demonstrated his capacity to handle complex, mature roles and helped establish his reputation as an actor willing to explore difficult subject matter. This role arguably set the stage for his later success in critically acclaimed projects where he often plays enigmatic, intense characters.

For fans and critics alike, Spader's performance in "Less Than Zero" remains a highlight, providing insight into his early development as an actor and his ability to elevate the material through nuanced character work.

# Exploring Themes Through Spader's Character

Rip's character in "Less Than Zero" serves as a narrative device to explore several key themes:

- **The Corrupting Influence of Drugs:** Rip is both a cause and effect of the drug epidemic depicted, illustrating how addiction spreads through social circles.
- **Power Dynamics:** His calm control over others underscores the imbalance present in the world of the film, where money and drugs dictate relationships.
- **Alienation and Moral Ambiguity:** Rip's inscrutable demeanor reflects the alienation felt by many characters, emphasizing the moral gray areas they inhabit.

These themes resonate beyond the film's narrative, offering a commentary on broader social issues that remain relevant in discussions about youth culture and substance abuse.

James Spader's embodiment of Rip thus becomes a focal point for understanding "Less Than Zero" not just as a story about addiction, but as a critique of the cultural landscape that enables such destruction. His performance invites viewers to reflect on the complexities of human behavior and the societal factors contributing to the film's grim realities.

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**james spader less than zero: A Study Guide for Bret Easton Ellis's "Less than Zero"** Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-06-29 A Study Guide for Bret Easton Ellis's Less than Zero, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

**james spader less than zero: Roger Ebert's Four Star Reviews--1967-2007** Roger Ebert, 2008-02 Presents a collection of the critic's most positive film reviews of the last four decades, arranged alphabetically from About Last Night to Zodiac.

**james spader less than zero: Age of Cage** Keith Phipps, 2022-03-29 An NPR Books We Love



2022 "Age of Cage might be the closest we will get to understanding the singular beauty of each of Nic Cage's always electric performances. You are holding the Rosetta Stone for Cage. Enjoy it." —Paul Scheer, actor, writer and host of the How Did This Get Made? and Unspooled podcasts Icon. Celebrity. Artist. Madman. Genius. Nicolas Cage is many things, but love him, or laugh at him, there's no denying two things: you've seen one of his many films, and you certainly know his name. But who is he, really, and why has his career endured for over forty years, with more than a hundred films, and birthed a million memes? Age of Cage is a smart, beguiling book about the films of Nicolas Cage and the actor himself, as well as a sharp-eyed examination of the changes that have taken place in Hollywood over the course of his career. Critic and journalist Keith Phipps draws a portrait of the enigmatic icon by looking at—what else?—Cage's expansive filmography. As Phipps delights in charting Cage's films, Age of Cage also chronicles the transformation of film, as Cage's journey takes him through the world of 1980s comedies (Valley Girl, Peggy Sue Got Married, Moonstruck), to the indie films and blockbuster juggernauts of the 1990s (Wild at Heart, Leaving Las Vegas, Face/Off, Con Air), through the wild and unpredictable video-on-demand world of today. Sweeping in scope and intimate in its profile of a fiercely passionate artist, Age of Cage is, like the man himself, surprising, insightful, funny, and one of a kind. So, snap out of it, and enjoy this appreciation of Nicolas Cage, national treasure.

**james spader less than zero: Robert Downey Jr.** Ben Falk, 2014-12-08 The Comeback Kid will be the first biography of Robert Downey Jr. A Detailed and authoritative account of the life, career, stardom and controversy of Robert Downey JR - one of Hollywood's most popular, and gifted, actors of recent times. A behind-the-scenes look on the making of his most famous and infamous movies, talking to the people closest to him, from actors and directors to those he has encountered during his trips to the dark side. "I've always felt like an outsider in this industry. Because I'm so insane I guess." - Robert Downey Jr. Robert Downey Jr's life isn't a movie - but it could be. Now one of the biggest box office stars in the world thanks to Iron Man and Sherlock Holmes, he's come a long way since his early days as a rising actor amidst the Brat Pack of the Eighties, as well as stints on Saturday Night Live and Ally McBeal. His incredible journey has also encompassed prison and drug addiction - experiences which left him just one bad choice away from death. Funny, definitive and entertaining, this is the first book that dares to glimpse inside the psyche of a brilliant and complex icon of our times.

**james spader less than zero: What 80s Pop Culture Teaches Us About Today's Workplace** Chris Clews, 2022-01-02 Oh, Carol Anne, who crooned, They're here. Poltergeist, 1982. Perhaps you meant to say ... It's he-ere. The first full-length book that comes on the heels of its mini-book predecessor. Let the What '80s Pop Culture series truly begin! So where does Book #2, 10 More Iconic Movies, Even More Totally Awesome Business Lessons, take us? Cue the unforgettable '80s quote: Where we're going, we don't need roads. (Back to the Future, 1985.) You'll need a guide for this journey and there's no better way to travel than to hop in the time machine '80s style. Remember the sequels craze that swept the nation with iconic films like Raiders of the Lost Ark, Rocky, Back to the Future and every slasher film set on a street or in a camp? Yes, the '80s excelled in creating sequels and so does Chris. So, are '80s movies really imbued with timeless lessons for business leaders? Yes! The era of parachute pants, Members Only jackets and padded shoulders also brought us the same creative indulgence for the workplace in the form of bigger business lessons, bigger budgets, and anything-goes totally radical marketing. And the practical, evergreen lessons for businesses of all kinds? They're timeless. In Book #2, you'll find 10 more unforgettable '80s movies and even more righteous business lessons to apply at work. Plus a totally radical foreword from '80s silver screen sweetheart Diane Franklin. Turn the pages and celebrate the arrival of a decade that saw an explosion in creativity and the rise of the individual. Discover dozens of relatable, unique and fun workplace lessons with a side of nostalgia. You'll never look at these movies and their characters the same as you did before. Here are a few examples of the lessons Chris has in store: The Outsiders -- When the chips are down, it's more important than ever to make the right decisions and Stay Gold. The Princess Bride -- How to drop the As you wish mentality. Caddyshack -- Learn how to Be the ball

in business. Fast Times at Ridgemont High -- Why it's okay to say, I don't know. The Lost Boys -- Reject your workplace vampires. Coming to America -- When you think of garbage, think of Akeem. Translated for the workplace? Earn your leadership. Better Off Dead -- Being successful requires that you Get out over your skis and hit that mountain as fast as you can. Weird Science -- It takes a bit of crazy to continue to move the business world forward. Ghostbusters -- It's true! Strapping an unlicensed nuclear reactor on your back makes you less risk-averse. The Karate Kid -- Don't forget to breathe. Very important is perhaps the greatest business advice of all time. In other words, you surely don't want to lose your sh!t when it hits the fan. The timeless lessons of '80s movies (taught to some of us as tweens and teens, and just now being discovered by younger generations) still resonate and apply to our careers. Extract these lessons and live them every day. So, get into some parachute pants, pump up your favorite '80s jams and get ready to learn What '80s Pop Culture Can Teach Us About Today's Workplace. Inspired, insightful, and hilarious. -- Kevin Barnett, Screenwriter and Producer A truly enjoyable and nostalgic read with golden nuggets of business advice throughout. -- Karen Jones-- Karen Jones, EVP & CMO, Ryder

**james spader less than zero: TLA Film and Video Guide 2000-2001** David Bleiler, 2025-09-23 The TLA Film & Video Guide is the absolutely indispensable guide for the true lover of cinema. By focusing on independent and international films, and avoiding much of the made-for-TV/made-for-cable/made-for-video dreck, this guide offers more comprehensive coverage of the films the reader may actually want to see. It also features: \* Over 9,500 films reviewed \* Five comprehensive indexes -- by star, director, theme, genre, and country of origin \* Over 450 photos \* A listing of all the major film awards \* A comprehensive selection of International Cinema from over 50 countries From one of the finest names in video retailing and a growing rental chain comes the latest edition of the film & video guide - now expanded to include titles available on DVD - that's perfect for everyone whose taste ranges from Pulp Fiction to Pink Flamingos, from Life is Beautiful to Valley of the Dolls.

**james spader less than zero: Fast Times and Excellent Adventures** James King, 2018-03-01 'Brilliant' Mail on Sunday Take a trip back to the era of troubled teens and awesome soundtracks; of Reagan, rap and Ridgemont High; of MTV, VHS and 'Axel F'; of outsiders, lost boys and dead poets; of Bill and Ted, Brooke Shields and the Brat Pack; of three Porky's, two Coreys and one summer when everyone called her Baby . . . Fast Times and Excellent Adventures goes behind the scenes of a genre where cult hits mingled with studio blockbusters, where giants like Spielberg and Coppola rubbed shoulders with baby-faced first-timers and where ambitious future superstars Sean, Demi and Tom all got their big break. Music, comedy and politics - all play a part in the surprisingly complex history of the '80s teen movie. And while the films might have been aimed primarily at adolescents, the best tackle universal issues and remain a magnet to all ages. Time of your life, huh kid? From a late '70s Hollywood in flux to an early '90s indie scene that gave youth cinema a timely reboot, respected film expert James King smartly highlights the personal struggles, the social changes and the boardroom shake-ups that produced an iconic time in movie history.

**james spader less than zero: It's Still Strictly Personal** Eric Friedmann, 2021-02-15 It's Still Strictly Personal continues Eric Friedmann's journey through the movies during the nine-year period of 1983 to 1991. While he and the rest of the world embraced blockbuster motion pictures like Ghostbusters, Back to the Future, Top Gun, Die Hard, Batman, and Terminator 2, it was also alternative films like A Passage to India, Blue Velvet, Platoon, Do the Right Thing, and Cinema Paradiso that captured his attention and continued to impact his youth, while shaping a deeper and more meaningful insight to the possibilities of cinema. Eric's personal story about the movies is still told with great memory and affection, for those who still remember a time when movies continued to change, grow, and evolve into deep-rooted memories for all of us who loved sitting in front of the big screen and waited for the magic to unfold. "Some movies we just watch. Others, we feel. Those that we can feel may not only tell us who we once were but perhaps who we have the potential to become." --Eric Friedmann So, are you ready to go back in time again...and remember?

**james spader less than zero: The Oliver Stone Encyclopedia** James M. Welsh, Donald M.

Whaley, 2012-11-15 Oliver Stone has written and directed many memorable films while also developing a reputation for tackling controversial subjects, such as the Turkish prison system (Midnight Express), the Vietnam war (Platoon and Born on the Fourth of July), insider trading (Wall Street), presidential assassination (JFK), and a voyeuristic media (Natural Born Killers). Along the way, Stone has been nominated for more than 10 Academy Awards and three times received Oscars for his work. In The Oliver Stone Encyclopedia, James M. Welsh and Donald M. Whaley provide an overarching evaluation of Stone's work as screenwriter, producer, and director. While the entries in this volume address all of the usual aspects of Stone's career, they also explore new avenues of critical evaluation, especially influences such as Friedrich Nietzsche and Buddhism, which Stone converted to in the 1990s. In addition, this volume traces Stone's obsession with Latin American politics, evident in his film Salvador (1986), his screenplay for Alan Parker's Evita (1996), and the documentaries Commandante (2003), Looking for Fidel (2004), and South of the Border (2010). Each entry is followed by a bibliography of published sources, both in print and online. A comprehensive and engaging examination of the director, The Oliver Stone Encyclopedia will appeal to scholars and fans alike as the most comprehensive reference on this director's body of work.

**james spader less than zero: Six Degrees of Cinema** Christopher Stewart, Have you ever played the game "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon"? You name each actor, director, and movie and make sure it connects to each degree before getting to Kevin Bacon. In this book, you will read of connections between actors and directors. For example, Robert Downey Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch of Avengers: Infinity War (2018) both played Sherlock Holmes or Forest Whitaker and Angela Bassett of Black Panther (2018) both played real-life musicians, etc. In this book, you will read of superheroes, comic books, or films based on comic books that have connections that you never expect to see. If you love comic books, then you will love what you will learn about your favorite actors and directors who work on films such as Superman (1978), Batman (1989), The Avengers (2012), etc.

**james spader less than zero: Acting Indie** Cynthia Baron, Yannis Tzioumakis, 2020-01-29 This book illustrates the many ways that actors contribute to American independent cinema. Analyzing industrial developments, it examines the impact of actors as writers, directors, and producers, and as stars able to attract investment and bring visibility to small-scale productions. Exploring cultural-aesthetic factors, the book identifies the various traditions that shape narrative designs, casting choices, and performance styles. The book offers a genealogy of industrial and aesthetic practices that connects independent filmmaking in the studio era and the 1960s and 1970s to American independent cinema in its independent, indie, indie-wood, and late-indie-wood forms. Chapters on actors' involvement in the evolution of American independent cinema as a sector alternate with chapters that show how traditions such as naturalism, modernism, postmodernism, and Third Cinema influence films and performances.

**james spader less than zero: Coming of Age in Popular Culture** Donald C. Miller, 2018-10-25 Documenting the evolution of teens and media from the 1950s through 2010, this book examines the films, books, television shows, and musical artists that impacted American culture and shaped the coming of age experience for each generation. The teenage years are fraught with drama and emotional ups and downs, coinciding with bewildering new social situations and sexual tension. For these reasons, pop culture and media have repeatedly created entertainment that depicts, celebrates, or lampoons coming of age experiences, through sitcoms like The Wonder Years to the brat pack films of the 1980s to the teen-centered television series of today. Coming of Age in Popular Culture: Teenagers, Adolescence, and the Art of Growing Up covers a breadth of media presentations of the transition from childhood to adulthood from the 1950s to the year 2010. It explores the ways that adolescence is characterized in pop culture by drawing on these representations, shows how powerful media and entertainment are in establishing societal norms, and considers how American society views and values adolescence. Topics addressed include race relations, gender roles, religion, and sexual identity. Young adult readers will come away with a heightened sense of media literacy through the examination of a topic that inherently interests them.

**james spader less than zero: The Films of the Eighties** Robert A. Nowlan, 1991-01-01 The 1980s had more than its share of both emerging stars and final tributes paid to luminaries, as well as smash hits and bombs, memorable and boring performances, and new trends and tried-and-true formula offerings. The Film of the Eighties includes numerous examples of all of these. Each entry has the year of release, production company, country of origin (U.S., U.K., Australian, Canadian), leading performers and the characters they portrayed, and comprehensive credits. A brief description, review, and evaluation of the film's cinematic values (if any) are also provided.

**james spader less than zero: Analyzing Christmas in Film** Lauren Rosewarne, 2017-12-06 Film plays a vital role in the celebration of Christmas. For decades, it has taught audiences about what the celebration of the season looks like - from the decorations to the costumes and to the expected snowy weather - as well as mirrors our own festivities back to us. Films like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Home Alone* have come to play key roles in real-life domestic celebrations: watching such titles has become, for many families, every bit as important as tree-trimming and leaving cookies out for Santa. These films have exported the American take on the holiday far and wide and helped us conjure an image of the perfect holiday. Rather than settling the 'what is a Christmas film?' debate - indeed, *Die Hard* and *Lethal Weapon* are discussed within - *Analyzing Christmas in Film: Santa to the Supernatural* focuses on the how Christmas is presented on the deluge of occasions when it appears. While most Christmas films are secular, religion makes many cameos, appearing through Nativity references, storylines involving spiritual rebirth, the framing of Santa as a Christ-like figure and the all-importance of family, be it the Holy family or just those gathered around the dining table. Also explored are popular narratives involving battles with stress and melancholy, single parents and Christmas martyrs, visits from ghosts and angels, big cities and small towns, break-ups and make-ups and the ticking clock of mortality. Nearly 1000 films are analyzed in this volume to determine what the portrayal of Christmas reveals about culture, society and faith as well as sex roles, consumerism, aesthetics and aspiration.

**james spader less than zero: Behind the Seams** Deahdra, 2016-05-12 *Behind the Seams* tells the true story of a Hollywood costumer who worked in Tinsel Town during the golden era of television and film. Author Deahdra worked for many years on motion picture and TV studio lots, as well as in other settings as she dressed some of the biggest stars of the era. Chapters are broken down by movie or television title, detailing activities both on and off the sets. Her fun, exciting, and often humorous experiences with famous actors could fill a book!

**james spader less than zero: Leonard Maltin's 2015 Movie Guide** Leonard Maltin, 2014-09-02 NEARLY 16,000 ENTRIES INCLUDING 300+ NEW ENTRIES AND MORE THAN 13,000 DVD LISTINGS Summer blockbusters and independent sleepers; masterworks of Alfred Hitchcock, Billy Wilder, and Martin Scorsese; the timeless comedy of the Marx Brothers and Buster Keaton; animated classics from Walt Disney and Pixar; the finest foreign films ever made. This 2015 edition covers the modern era, from 1965 to the present, while including all the great older films you can't afford to miss—and those you can—from box-office smashes to cult classics to forgotten gems to forgettable bombs, listed alphabetically, and complete with all the essential information you could ask for. NEW: • Nearly 16,000 capsule movie reviews, with 300+ new entries • More than 25,000 DVD and video listings • Up-to-date list of mail-order and online sources for buying and renting DVDs and videos MORE: • Official motion picture code ratings from G to NC-17 • Old and new theatrical and video releases rated \*\*\*\* to BOMB • Exact running times—an invaluable guide for recording and for discovering which movies have been edited • Reviews of little-known sleepers, foreign films, rarities, and classics • Leonard's personal list of Must-See Movies • Date of release, running time, director, stars, MPAA ratings, color or black and white • Concise summary, capsule review, and four-star-to-BOMB rating system • Precise information on films shot in widescreen format • Symbols for DVDs, videos, and laserdiscs • Completely updated index of leading actors

**james spader less than zero: The Movie Guide** James Monaco, 1992 From *The Big Sleep* to *Babette's Feast*, from *Lawrence of Arabia* to *Drugstore Cowboy*, *The Movie Guide* offers the inside word on 3,500 of the best motion pictures ever made. James Monaco is the president and founder of

BASELINE, the world's leading supplier of information to the film and television industries. Among his previous books are *The Encyclopedia of Film*, *American Film Now*, and *How to Read a Film*.

**james spader less than zero:** *The Bloody Reign of Slayer* Joel McIver, 2009-11-11 When the Los Angeles thrash metal band Slayer redefined the parameters of heavy music in 1986 with the horrific *Reign In Blood* album, few of their fans would have predicted that, nearly a quarter of a century later, their fame would be undimmed and their subject matter still as controversial as ever. Slayer's distinctive musical attack has guaranteed the band's residence at the peak of the extreme metal scene, with the unearthly lead Guitar wails of Jeff Hanneman and Kerry King, Dave Lombardo's world-class drums and Tom Araya's unique vocals accompanying a fearless lyrical approach. However, Slayer have moved with the times: when their mosh pit anthems about serial killers and Satanism became outmoded, the band addressed fresh outrages such as religious terrorism, genocide and war, always accompanied by artwork that has achieved cult status in its own right. The controversy surrounding them has been endless, with authorities even accusing Slayer of a white supremacist agenda and Nazi sympathies - just one myth explored and refuted in *The Bloody Reign Of Slayer*, the first ever biography of this unique band. Joel McIver's expert biography traces the band's development, album by album, as well as exploring the headline-grabbing moments over Slayer's long and tumultuous career which have become an inseparable part of the cult which surrounds and defines them.

**james spader less than zero:** *The Doors FAQ* Rich Weidman, 2011-10-01 It has been 40 years since the untimely death of L.A.'s mystic and rock's Dionysus, Jim Morrison, yet the Doors have consistently inspired new generations of fans worldwide ever since. Highlighting one of the most influential, original, and outrageous American bands of the 1960s, *The Doors FAQ* is a dynamic, unorthodox exploration of this remarkable band and its enigmatic lead singer. Drawing upon unique sources, Rich Weidman digs deep and serves up fresh perspective on the music, from the garage to the hits to the outtakes; and on the band's members, from their roots, influences, and key industry partners to their rare talents, personal foibles, love affairs, and arrests. This volume also details every studio album and live recording, all the highs and lows of the Doors in concert (including the notorious 1969 Miami concert), Morrison's 40-day trial, and the death of the "Lizard King" in Paris in 1971, as well as post-Morrison milestones. Unlike the straightforward narratives of other Doors biographies, this inventive, ceremonious biographical collage leaves no stone unturned, covering the band both with Morrison and post-Morrison, including the 2010 *When You're Strange* documentary and the recent pardon of Morrison by the State of Florida for the Miami concert. Countless rare images from album art to ticket stubs to posters accompany the text, in this dazzling edition of solid rock scholarship.

**james spader less than zero:** *Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide* , 2003

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