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Flisfeder, Matthew. **The symbolic, the sublime, and Slavoj Žižek's theory of film.** Palgrave Macmillan, 2013 (c2012). 195p bibl index
afp ISBN 0230341470, \$85.00; ISBN 9780230341470, \$85.00

This monograph reframes and clarifies the contribution of the well-known Slovene philosopher Slavoj Žižek to film theory. Flisfeder (formerly, Wilfrid Laurier Univ., Canada) describes Žižek's work as a theory of ideology developed through the analysis of popular films. Among film scholars, Žižek is known primarily as a Lacanian, and while Flisfeder does not seek to dispel this, he provides a nuanced reading of Žižek's Lacanian approach that leads to his own argument about the relationships among ideology, enjoyment, and cinematic spectatorship. The author hopes to appeal to readers flummoxed by Žižek's writing, the application of Lacanian psychoanalysis to film criticism, and the history of grand theory. Writing with concision, the author provides readers with clear illustrations and a thorough background into the key theoretical debates in film theory, especially between the formalists and those of ideological persuasions. Flisfeder takes on a challenging topic and produces a clear, well-organized volume. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*L. M. Anderst, Queensborough Community College - CUNY*