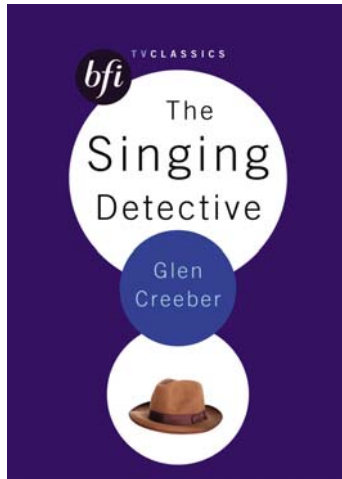


Books press release

BFI TV CLASSICS



The Singing Detective

A Critical Reading of the Series

Glen Creeber

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The Singing Detective, a multi-award winning six-part serial broadcast by the BBC in 1986 has been described by novelist Stephen King as ‘the Citizen Kane of the mini-series’. Voted No. 5 in the BFI’s greatest television drama series/serial of all time, its innovative techniques and multi-layered narrative structure makes it a truly remarkable piece of storytelling that has become internationally influential.

Written by Dennis Potter (*Pennies from Heaven*, *Brimstone and Treacle*, *Blue Remembered Hills*), directed by Jon Amiel (*Sommersby*, *Copycat*, *Entrapment*) and starring Michael Gambon, it is a landmark piece of television drama that will forever set the benchmark upon which other programmes are now judged. Controversial, challenging, innovative and consistently moving, it is television at its very finest and most memorable.

In this unique and comprehensive study, the latest addition to the BFI’s TV Classics series, Glen Creeber dissects *The Singing Detective*’s sometimes-bewildering array of themes and techniques. He draws on new and previous research, bringing together a wide range of debates and issues in a lively and entertaining manner. In particular, Creeber explains the densely religious structure of the serial; its exploration into the power of language, story-telling and authorship; its investigation of the ambiguous power of popular culture; its complex psychological construction of illness and sexuality and its implicit deconstruction of realist forms and techniques.

This is an essential book for anyone interested in this landmark television drama or in the artistic potential of television as a whole.

About the author

Glen Creeber is a Senior Lecturer in Film and Television Studies at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

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About BFI TV Classics

TV Classics is a series of books from the BFI that celebrates key individual television programmes and series. Television scholars, critics and novelists provide critical readings underpinned with careful research, alongside a personal response to the programme and a case for its ‘classic’ status.