



# Alexander Payne: His Journey in Film: A Reporter's Perspective, 1998 - 2012

*Leo Adam Biga*

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*I'd be an Alexander Payne fan even if we didn't share a Nebraska upbringing: he is a masterly, menschly, singular storyteller whose movies are both serious and unpretentious, delightfully funny and deeply moving. And he's fortunate indeed to have such a thoughtful and insightful chronicler as Leo Biga.* --Kurt Andersen, Host of *Studio 360*. Long before Alexander Payne arrived as a world-renowned filmmaker, Leo Adam Biga spotted his talent, even screening his thesis project, *The Passion of Martin*, at an art cinema. By the time Payne completed *Citizen Ruth* and prepped *Election* Biga made him a special focus of his journalism. Interviewing and profiling and Payne became a highlight of the writer's work. Feeling a rapport and trust with Biga, Payne granted exclusive access to his creative process, including a week-long visit to one of his sets. Now that Payne has moved from emerging to established cinema force through a succession of critically acclaimed and popular projects—*About Schmidt*, *Sideways*, and *The Descendants*—Biga has compiled his years of reporting into this book. It is the first comprehensive look anywhere at one of cinema's most important figures. Go behind-the-scenes with the author to glimpse privileged aspects of the filmmaker at work and in private moments. The book takes the measure of Payne through Biga's analysis, the filmmaker's own words, and insights from some of the writer-director's key collaborators. This must read for any casual fan or serious student of Payne provides in one volume the arc of a remarkable filmmaking journey.



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