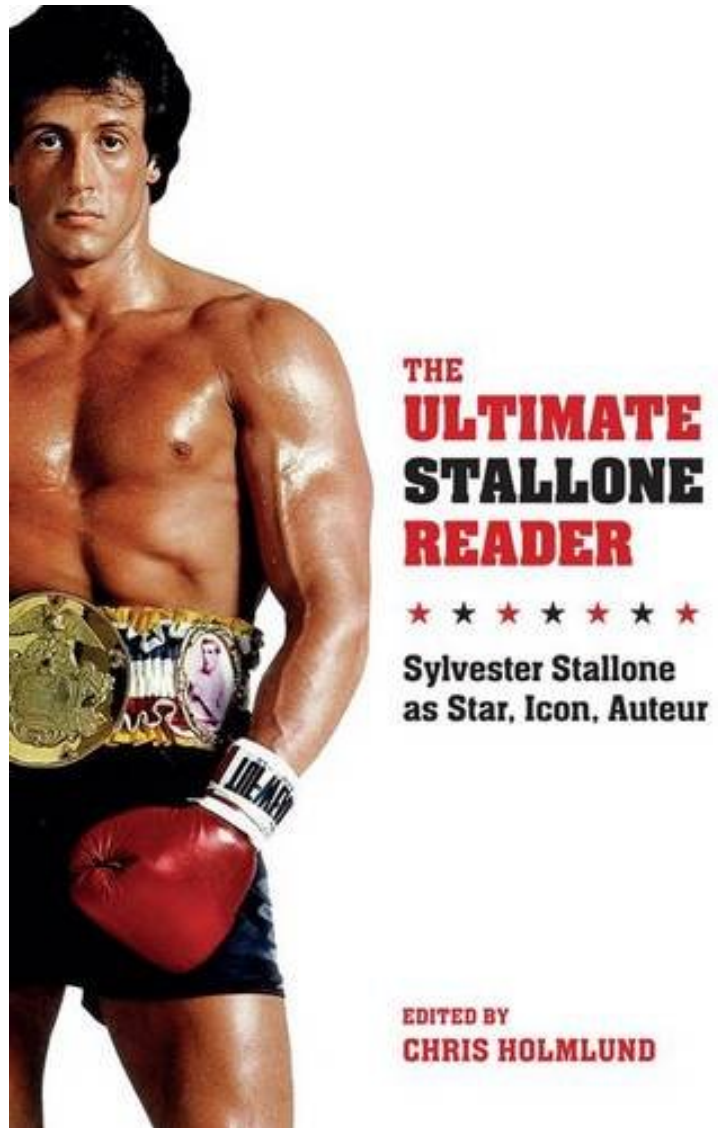


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Sylvester Stallone has been a defining part of American film for nearly four decades. He has made an impact on world entertainment in a surprisingly diverse range of capacities as actor, writer, producer, and director all while maintaining a monolithic presence. With *The Ultimate Stallone Reader*, this icon finally receives concerted academic attention. Eleven original essays by internationally-known scholars examine Stallone's contributions to mainstream cinema, independent film, and television. This volume also offers innovative approaches to star, gender, and celebrity studies, performance analysis, genre criticism, industry and reception inquiry, and the question of what it means to be an auteur. Ultimately, *The Ultimate Stallone Reader* investigates the place that Sylvester Stallone occupies within an industry and a culture that have both undergone much evolution, and how his work has reflected and even driven these changes.

This wide-ranging collection of perceptive and provocative essays turns the iconic figure and films of Sylvester Stallone into a dynamic conversation not only about Stallone himself but also about key issues and debates in cinema culture today. (Timothy Corrigan, University of Pennsylvania)About the AuthorChris Holmlund is Arts and Sciences Excellence Professor of Cinema Studies and French at the University of Tennessee. She is the author of *Impossible Bodies* (2002), editor of *American Cinema of the 1990s* (2008), co-editor of *Contemporary American Independent Film* (2005) and *Between the Sheets, In the Streets: Queer, Lesbian, Gay Documentary* (1997).