1. Record Nr. UNINA9910136987303321 Autore Dienstag Joshua Foa <1965-> Titolo Cinema, democracy and perfectionism: Joshua Foa Dienstag in dialogue / / edited by Joshua Foa Dienstag Pubbl/distr/stampa Manchester, England: .: Manchester University Press, . 2016 ©2016 **ISBN** 1-78499-402-2 1-78499-779-X Descrizione fisica 1 online resource : digital file(s) Collana Open Access e-Books Knowledge Unlatched Critical powers Disciplina 791.436581 Soggetti Motion pictures - Political aspects Motion pictures - Philosophy Motion pictures - Plots, themes, etc Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto I. Lead essay -- 1. The tragedy of remarriage: letter to M. Cavell about cinema (a remake) / Joshua Foa Dienstag -- II. Responses -- 2. Emancipated perfectionism or, In praise of dreaming / Clare Woodford -- 3. The phenomenology of the political: a reply from Saturday Night to Mr. Dienstag / Tracy B. Strong -- 4. The tragedy of remarriage in the Golden Age of television / Margaret Kohn -- 5. "That dangerous contention": a cinematic response to pessimism / Davide Panagia -- 6. Letter to Mr. Dienstag / Thomas Dumm -- III. Reply -- 7. A letter to my critics / Joshua Foa Dienstag. In the lead essay for this volume, Joshua Foa Dienstag engages in a Sommario/riassunto critical encounter with the work of Stanley Cavell on cinema, focusing sceptical attention on the claims made for the contribution of cinema to the ethical character of democratic life. In this debate, Dienstag mirrors the celebrated dialogue between Rousseau and Jean D'Alembert on theatre, casting Cavell as D'Alembert in his view that we can learn to become better citizens and better people by observing a staged

representation of human life, with Dienstag arguing, after Rousseau,

that this misunderstands the relationship between original and copy, even more so in the medium of film than in the medium of theatre. The argument is developed further by essays from Clare Woodford, Tracy B. Strong, Margaret Kohn, Davide Panagia and Thomas Dunn, to which Dienstag responds in the concluding chapter, 'A reply to my critics'.