

PAUL THOMAS ANDERSON



ON SCREEN

Week Five

Welcome to *Paul Thomas Anderson on Screen*

Week Five

Here we are at the half-way point of our journey into the PTAU - which absolutely no has ever or will ever call Anderson's filmography – and we've reached yet another pivot point. Frankly, I can only assume that if Anderson keeps pivoting at this rate, we'll be due *Hard Eight II: Hard Eighter* within the next decade. Or maybe he'll finally have earned the right to call that one *Sydney*.

Our film for this week is *There Will Be Blood*, exceedingly loosely adapted from the novel *Oil!* by journalist, author and activist Upton Sinclair. In fact, much as would later be the case with *One Battle After Another* the source material serves more as inspiration – and only its first 200 pages or so, at that - for Anderson's film, as opposed to a straight adaptation. Other than the setting, a modern reader would

It would be a film that not only garnered significant critical attention, further cementing Anderson's reputation for consistently producing films of quality, it also revived his commercial fortunes, after the relative disappointment of the otherwise well-received *Punch Drunk Love*.

If you love cinema, and you haven't attempted an impression of St. Daniel Day Lewis' milkshake metaphor for total victory, then I'm not sure what you've been doing with your life.

Its performances linger, with Day Lewis and Dano obvious standouts, but it is visually stunning too, the vivid evocation of a time, place and way of living that feels not only pinpoint accurate, but resonant to our modern world.

Hardly necessary at this stage in the game, where simply holding the line might have been sufficient, it brought out new colours in Anderson's writing and direction, reminding audiences of his continuing drive to move forward, go deeper and whisper more profound secrets about the human heart.

FILM WEEK FIVE

There Will Be Blood (2007)

Quentin Tarantino on *There Will Be Blood*

Honest Trailers: *There Will Be Blood*