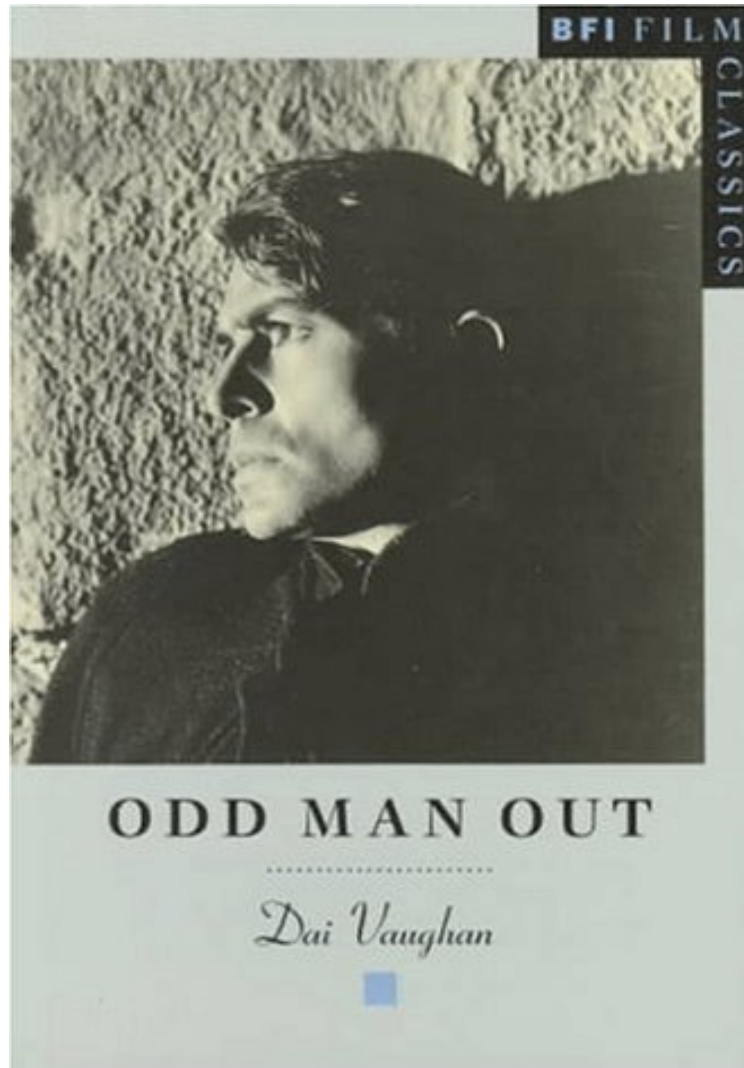


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## Odd Man Out (BFI Film Classics)

*Dai Vaughan*

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**Dai Vaughan : Odd Man Out (BFI Film Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Odd Man Out (BFI Film Classics):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A sad tale and a great film By joedud Odd Man Out was James Mason's favorite role, and it has been described as the greatest Irish film ever made. This thoughtful book is one of the British Film Institute's series of brief books devoted to specific films. This book covers all aspects of how this film (directed by Carol Reed) was made in a way that yields insights into all kinds of things. I greatly enjoyed this book, and it makes me want to watch the film again. And, finally, I have found all of the BFI brief books on specific films that I have read to be of the highest quality.

On its appearance in February 1947 the Sunday Chronicle called *Odd Man Out* "the best film of all time." But not everyone agreed. Edgar Anstey in the *Documentary News Letter* thought the film was morbid and regretted its lack of an upbeat social message. *Odd Man Out* recounts the last few hours in the life of an IRA man on the run after being wounded in a disastrous robbery. Johnny roams the streets of Belfast one step ahead of the police until he is finally gunned down. Despite its setting, the film is more concerned with the metaphysical and moral dimensions of Johnny's plight than with the politics of Ireland. Though Johnny is constantly center stage, the film adopts an unusually detached stance towards him. Dai Vaughan describes with great precision how the film presents Johnny's increasing isolation and hopelessness in a series of brilliantly staged scenes. The film united two major figures of British cinema at the height of their powers. The critical success of *Odd Man Out* propelled James Mason to Hollywood. Carol Reed, fresh from great acclaim for *The Stars Look Down* and *The Way Ahead*, was only two years away from *The Third Man*. Their collaboration in *Odd Man Out* marked one of the high points of postwar British cinema.

About the Author Dai Vaughan is a film editor, writer, and poet. His last book for BFI Publishing was *Portrait of an Invisible Man: The Working Life of Stewart McAllister, Film Editor*.