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| Jodorowsky, Alejandro Prullansky (1929--) |
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| Alejandro Jodorowsky is a Chileam film director and writer, who is also known for his comics, poetry, novels, short stories, theatrical plays, and nonfictional writings. In the non-Spanish-speaking world, Jodorowsky is primarily known as a film director specialising in phantasmagorical, surreal, and psychedelic films. He made his directorial debut in 1968 with the full-length feature film *Fando and Lis*, an adaption of Fernando Arrabal’s play of the same title that Jodorowsky previously directed for the theatre. His next two films, *El Topo* [*The Mole*] (1970) and *The Holy Mountain* (1973), however, established Jodorowsky as a unique voice in world cinema. While the former might be termed a ‘psychedelic western,’ the latter is a surreal film of spiritual exploration. Both draw heavily, thematically and visually, on a range of mystical traditions, including Jewish Kabbalah, Christian esoteric doctrines, Buddhism, and Latin American Shamanistic rituals. Beyond their extensive use of symbolism, these films experiment with various cinematic forms, conventions, and genres, and thereby suggest new possibilities for experiencing cinema. Jodorowsky continues to develop his mystical film style, and after a prolonged break from directing, has recently returned to filmmaking. |
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