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The IFILM Digital Video Filmmaker's Handbook

Synopsis

Digital technology is changing the way filmmakers compose images and tell stories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an informative and engaging book that conveys a high level overview of independent film production. The advice given is the type of advice you'd get if you had a friend "in the business" who was telling you everything they've learned about the craft. It doesn't go into extraordinary detail, but contains much conventional wisdom.The book I purchased was published in 2001, and while it was written at the cusp of the "digital age", the information related to the skill/craft/wisdom is relevant regardless of the advances in technology. In short, the technological information is outdated (equipment, media, pricing examples). If you can ignore references to tech circa 2001, I would recommend this book to anyone who needs a good introductory overview of independent film production. I found it easy to read and it helpded me to expand my understanding of the craft from "a guy and a camera" to "a full production cycle"

Many people have praised this book and I do also. This is a must have book for digital (I recommend reading it with Feature Filmmaking at Used-Car Prices : How to Write, Produce, Direct, Shoot, Edit, and Promote a Feature-Lenth Movie for Less Than $15,000 by Rick Schmidt) And though I don't mean to discourage anyone from buying it, I have to say that the editing section Chapter 8 is confusing.I wish the author had taken the approach--here's how I do it and then

followed his own path, then suggested other starting points and gone through those. What he did was put a whole lot of stuff that apply to a whole lot of different methods in a big jumble without any hint of how to follow them (or if you should follow them) to the end. The rest of the book is great, though an index would have helped.

I was gravely disappointed by this book. A large portion of it is wasted talking about movie making in general-- how to work with writers, write a good script, etc. A small portion provided a small portion of the information I had expected--technical information about the 'digital' part. It is poorly written and poorly edited.

I have ordered many books from in the past, but this is the first review I have written. After reading the poor review of Maxie Collier's IFILM Digital Video Filmmaker's Handbook, I had to offer my feedback.I have purchased and read dozens of books about digital filmmaking and low budget filmmaking and Collier's book is undoubtedly one of the most comprehensive. The book covers everything from film basics to an excellent explantion of digital production and post production technology and technics. I learned alot just reading the very informative glossary.I have to agree with the review below that it is not the best edited book but the writing is excellent. I was impressed with the personal and inspiring tone of the book. Unlike one of the other digital filmmaking book I recently read (Digital Moviemaking by Scott Billups), this book is a great read. And, Collier's book cost less and comes with a DVD. (The DVD was kind of boring, but it has some real handy production forms on it that you can print out on your computer.)While I'm a fan of other filmmaking books such as Feature Filmmaking at Used Car Prices (Rick Schmidt's classic), Collier's book covers digital technology far more thoroughly. If there is a better digital filmmaking book available, somebody PLEASE let me know the title and I'll order that one as well. Otherwise, the IFILM Digital Video Filmmaker's Handbooks gets my vote.

I've given this book a middle rating because I'm not sure what category of reader is its intended target. It mentions "first time filmmakers" but few start at that point. If it's aimed at the rank beginner who's trying to find a handhold, I'd rate it lower. If it's aimed at those who are knee-deep in the process, or is meant to supplement instruction, I might rate it higher.As someone just beginning to look into digital filmmaking, I bought this book along with Digital Filmmaking 101. I'm glad I bought DF 101. Digital Video, on the other hand, is destined to be donated to my local and impoverished library. Another book-buying lesson learned.I don't think of it as a really bad book, or an unbalanced

book, and if I were more familiar with digital video I might appreciate it more--or less, depending on how correct the information is. As it is, I finished reading it and felt as if I'd gained little "stick to the ribs" information from it. The chapters after chapter 7 seemed especially unsuited to the beginner.It may be that the book tries to cover too much territory. Obviously, shooting a movie--even with DV--is a complex process where a lot can go wrong. Making a book complex (not necessarily detailed) isn't likely to work well with the person new to the process, especially if the editing isn't up to par.I suspect the approach taken by DF 101, combined with further reading on various elements of the craft, will serve most of those readers better.The book comes with a CD, the contents of which are unknown to me, as it appeared to be lightly scuffed and was unreadable in four CD-ROMs, even after cleaning. Hopefully an isolated case.

We used Maxie's book as a textbook for an introduction to digital moviemaking class I took last semester. I finished reading the book the first week of class, it was so easy to read! When we started shooting our short films, most of the people in the class had the book on set with them. The glossary alone is filled with useful information. Out of more than 20 people in the class, there was never one complaint about the book. I think the teacher is using it again this semester. I leant my copy to a friend who ended up buying her own copy. I highly recommend this book.

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