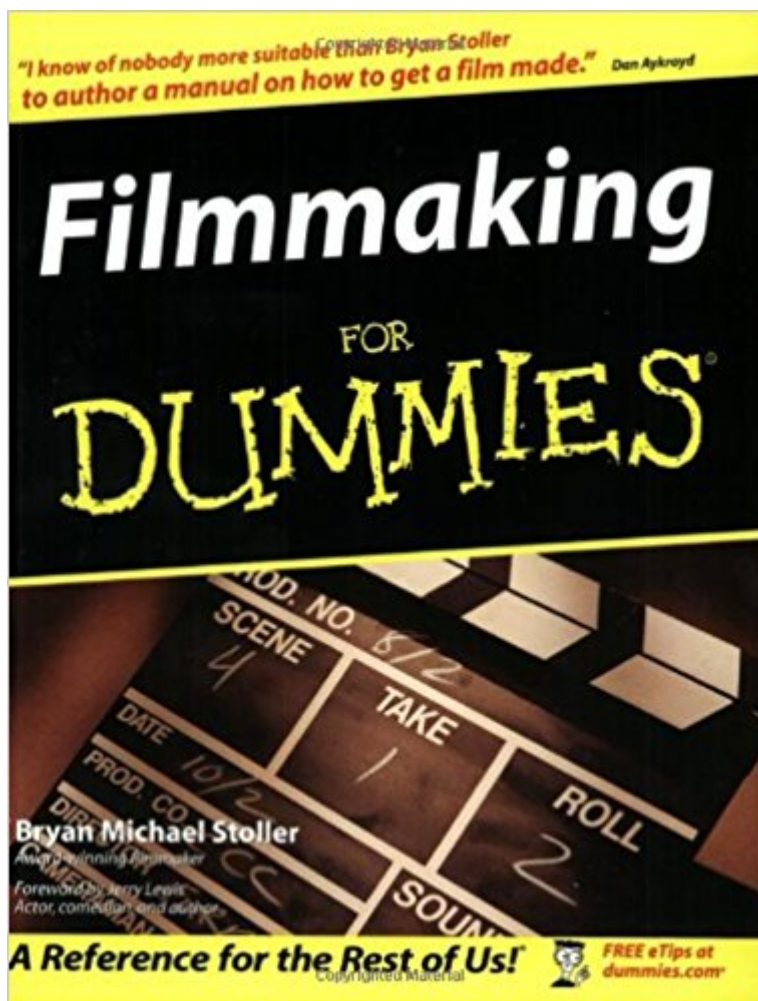


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# Filmmaking For Dummies



## Synopsis

Film is a powerful medium. Successful filmmakers possess the passion to visually tell a story that will affect people's emotions, make them see things differently, help them discover new ideas, or just create an escape for them. Whether you love the experience of being enthralled by movies or the excitement, challenge, and magic of making the movie yourself, *Filmmaking For Dummies* is your primer to creating a respectable product. For the seasoned professional, this friendly reference can inspire you with fresh ideas before you embark on your next big flick. Get ready to roll with expert information on

- Defining the difference between independent and studio films
- Knowing what genre fits your fancy
- Finding perfect locations
- Storyboarding your film
- Directing the action
- Giving credit and titles

Written from the author's 30 years of hands-on work as a writer, producer, and film director, *Filmmaking For Dummies* carries you through from screenplay to distribution, with lots of experience-packed insight into

- Writing or finding a screenplay
- Raising financing for your film
- Budgeting and scheduling your film
- Hiring the right actors and crew
- Planning, shooting, and directing your film
- Putting your film together in the editing room
- Finding a distributor to get your film in from of an audience
- Entering (and maybe even winning) film festivals

Taking into account the advent of digital technology, author Bryan Michael Stoller focuses on creative elements that apply to both film and video production. He also points out technical differences and notes the many similarities between traditional and newer age making of motion pictures all in a fun and engaging way that'll have you shooting for the stars!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I found *Filmmaking For Dummies* a thorough and informative read: a complete A to Z that demystifies not only production, but pre- and post- production as well. Stoller paints a picture of filmmaking so basic that you'd have to be not just a dummy but completely braindead if you're unable to make your own movie after closing the book." (Entertainment Weekly, September 5, 2003)

"I know of nobody more suitable than Bryan Stoller to author a manual on how to get a film made." &#151;Dan Aykroyd Scout locations, set up shots, and direct actors "Bryan Stoller has encapsulated the fundamentals of the filming process in a most accessible way." &#151;David Permut, Producer and President, Permut Presentations, Inc. Whether you're shooting a movie short or a feature film, find out how to do everything from developing a project, pitching it, and obtaining financing to hiring your cast and crew, shooting and editing your film, and distributing it for the world to see. The Dummies Way Explanations in plain English "Get in, get out" information Icons and other navigational aids Tear-out cheat sheet Top ten lists A dash of humor and fun

This is a great guide to have for basic film-making. It's full of resources and great websites. Because the business evolves so quickly, some of the info are incomplete, but I still recommend this book to any film-making student. It's cheap enough and will certainly open your eyes on a few details you might have passed on your pre-production.

I always love to learn about subjects that interest me, and even though I may have read through dozens of books on a subject to gain the maximum know-how about it, it's always a thrill to pick up a read that is truly superb. Bryan M. Stoller, the author of *Filmmaking for Dummies*, has accomplished one of the best jobs on this subject matter that I've found so far over the years. He's categorical and precise and I'd call it the best *Filmmaking Course on a budget*. The reader can learn in this inexpensive book just as much as in many 8-week filmmaking courses that often cost thousands of dollars and the good part is that with this book you already have the notes printed in front of you. The author offers a volume of resources discussing the differences of using actual film vs. video and new 24fps digital camcorders like the Panasonic AG-DVX100 Cinema Camera. He has excellent chapters on lighting, sound and camera filters, as well as on the commercial aspect of independent film distribution and film festivals, etc. This is a very practical, right-to-the point book and it's an enormous resource from a qualified guy who's been interested in filmmaking for a long time and who has at least 20 years of on-hand in-the-field experience. Stoller also offers very helpful Website

addresses for further information, even where to buy or rent equipment, etc., etc. Every aspiring and even professional filmmaker will definitely benefit from this book. Amazingly, this book is so updated as if it was just written a few weeks ago including the newest technological developments regarding digital film formats.

I JUST STARTED DOING THE FILMMAKING THING, AND THIS BOOK WILL ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS

Filmmaking For Dummies is an important book to me as a Producer of Indie Films so I can teach myself about fundraising. I am hoping it will challenge my new skills in Directing so I will know what it's like to be behind the camera. This book stands out to me because Michael Stoller is a known filmmaker and knowing that it helps me in opening up a new level of understanding in Filmmaking.

I recommend this book to anyone who doesn't read in a linear sequence. I tend to skip around in books to get the info I need and the way this book is formatted, it allows me to efficiently get the answers I want without any missed beats. Stoller effectively breaks down every aspect, from pre, principal photography, budget breakdown, contracting, scouting, editing, post to distribution and much more. For filmmakers, no matter what your budget or title(s), this book saves you money, time and a lot of guessing. Thank you Bryan Stoller!

The book is very helpful. It brings a lot of good information for new filmmakers. You can find tricks, terminologies, tips, techniques, and more to start your career as a new filmmaker. There are many good material to learn. The author uses recent movies as examples. It covers many aspects of the filmmaking industry and how to make a low budget film. Beside, the book brings a lot of links to interesting web pages related with the filmmaking industry.

I read this book, as well as others, because I'm taking a stab at filming a screenplay with some other people. I have enjoyed some of the other dummies books, but I thought this one was off target. It is very high level. For example, in the first or second chapter, he goes over what the job roles are for the production assistant, and ten other job titles you might see at the end of a Hollywood movie, and I'm thinking to myself, am I really going to have a full-time grip on my movie? I was hoping this book would focus on the nuts and bolts of making a small-budget / zero-budget film, but it talked about numbers that apply to people who aren't going to be reading a dummies book. On the whole, I

thought it was a real surface look at independent filmmaking, and would be appropriate for someone who wanted to learn about it, but not do it. You would be better off buying IFILM Filmmakers Handbook and some individual books on lighting and sound if you really want information about how to make your own film. A lot of the information in this book can be found on the web, also.

An excellent book for making your first second third and any other film after that. Being a big fan of the for dummies series, it was good to have a film making guide that covered every area of film making. From preproduction to postproduction. It is a good investment and a worthy companion as one works on a size project.

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