



□ THE EASY MOVIE MAKER GUIDE

□ THE FIRST
TIME FILM
MAKERS
HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

.Making Your First Feature Film, For Reel – Sure, plenty of people go broke putting together a film that ends up looking as amateurish as you feel. This doesn't have to happen. Learn how to spend as little money as possible and put together your directorial début with funding and support from industry professionals. This notoriously difficult to penetrate career choice doesn't have to be impossible. Follow these rules and steps to success to make a reel film that doesn't suck.

If you've watched, studied and loved film for years, perhaps you would make a good director. It's easy to get the bug, but how to actually make it happen?

The ability to see a story in pictures and manage people is a must, but so is the ability to see the project through from one end to the other. There's hard work and long hours ahead, but if your goal is to have a finished project you can be proud to show around, you can do it, just as so many before you have. It's important to realize that just because it's not easy, doesn't mean that it can't be a fun and truly rewarding experience that you'll either talk about for years to come or actually set you off on a new career.

This book will show you how to go from your unrealized dream of being a director. We'll start of by showing you how to doing all the planning that will help this film project go off without a hitch and avoid some of the more common pitfalls that commonly plague first-time directors. Next, you'll get a look at the production itself, from how to keep your crew happy and productive to directing actors into giving the performance you've imagined. Lastly, your vision will truly come alive in the post-production process – this book will give you hints and tips for making the most of the footage you have.

More importantly, perhaps, this book will show you how to actually make enough money or notoriety that will allow you to make a second film, preferably with someone else's money.

1 PRE-PRODUCTION

You may be surprised how much planning is absolutely necessary to guarantee the success of your directorial debut. It has been proven time and time again that there's nothing quite like skimping on this process to ensure chaos.

If you're going to beat the odds, planning for contingencies and making sure you've got a road-map to will guide you through the entire process is essential.

Don't kid yourself – making a movie is a very expensive proposition. Regardless of how you go about it, you will have to be extremely careful about how you spend your finite resources. Every moment you spend in production costs money, whether the camera is on or not. You can reasonably expect to spend 6-8 hours in pre-production for every hour in production.

EXAMINING YOUR MOTIVATIONS AND GOALS

Just what are you planning on doing with this film, anyhow? If your goal is to spend a weekend running around in the backyard with your pals and a camcorder, that's great. The pressure will be off and you can concentrate on having a good time. While you'll go through all the same basic steps, there will be less urgency and panic. Though the finished product won't likely look quite like what you've been seeing in your mind's eye, that's okay. As long as you don't go broke doing it – no harm, no foul. If you can't expect to get money out, you'll at least be aware that cash is only flowing one way and can plan accordingly.

On the other hand, if you want to put together a short or feature-length film to bring around to festivals, that's quite another thing. This route is the classic long shot, but is also a chance for you to jump right in with both feet. This is most especially true in the case of short films of under 30 minutes. There are many festivals that specialize in such films, and this is a good way to impress potential investors with your skills and build notoriety.