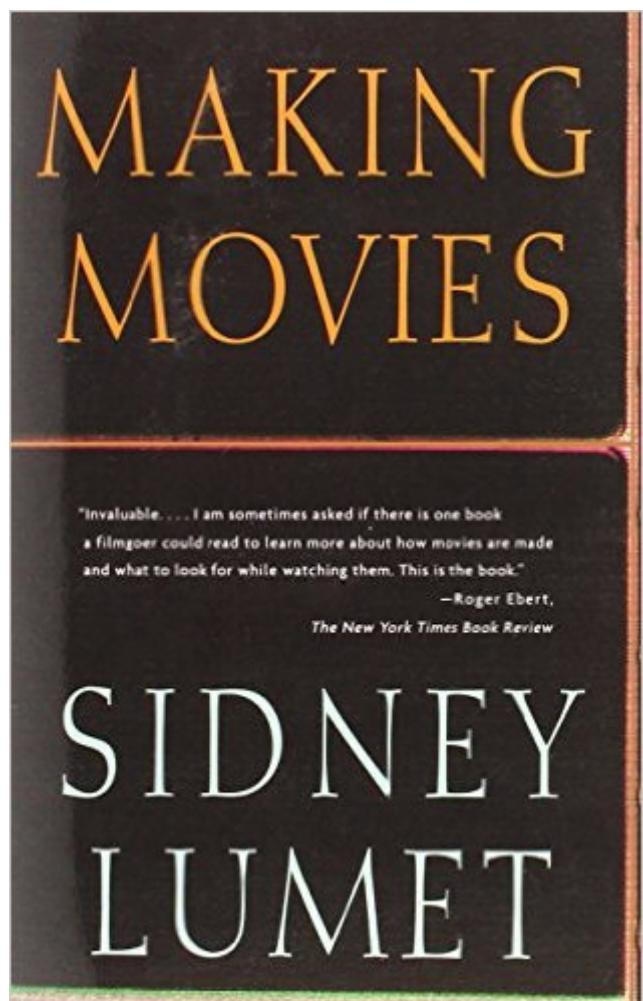


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# Making Movies



## Synopsis

From one of America's most acclaimed directors comes a book that is both a professional memoir and a definitive guide to the art, craft, and business of the motion picture. Drawing on 40 years of experience on movies ranging from *Long Day's Journey Into Night* to *The Verdict*, Lumet explains the painstaking labor that results in two hours of screen magic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A friend recommended this book saying, "I'm not sure you want to learn about making movies, but this is a great project management book." Well...I could see his point, but I didn't feel the same way about the book. There's a thin thread throughout about the way Lumet conducts his movie project, most evident in the book's best chapter (7) entitled "Shooting the Movie: At Last!" The pieces of the puzzle all fall together at that point, and you get a true sense of everyone's responsibilities and how Lumet plans and uses these resources. So yeah, that's project management. But if you're going to buy this book, buy it because you're interested in how movies get made, starting right from how a script is chosen, through to the preview. From that perspective, it's a great book. Again, in the book's best chapter, you get a sense for just how draining - and unglamorous - it is to actually shoot the movie. Early pick-ups, lots of work with stand-ins to get the set (esp. lighting) right, multiple takes, late-night viewing of rushes. This is tough work, and Lumet describes it clear, concise language. And he pulls no punches as to where his frustrations lay in the process. Roger Ebert's cover blurb states "I am sometimes asked if there is one book a filmgoer could read to learn more about how movies are made and what to look for while watching them. This is the book." I'd

say that's a very accurate summation of what you'll find here.

I've read 'Making Movies' for my 'Visual Communication' class, in which we examined visual sources that ranged from pictorial representations to actual films. I must admit, however, that the book was a real joy to read, and Lumet a master to know closely. As the other reviewers have mentioned, Lumet's style makes it easy for everyone to understand and get a grasp of what it takes to shoot a movie, from reading a scenario, to bringing together a cast, from dealing with actors to trying to stay within the budget. The book's procession is designed in such a way, that your curiosity increases as you flip through the chapters. (You begin to wonder if the film's going to get ready in time.) Lumet, as the director of many films, should be considered as a real master in the film industry. He has worked with important actors such as Sean Connery frequently, and succeeded in putting together remarkable films, like 'Twelve Angry Men'. He tells the audience exactly how he's felt and what he's thought during the making of the movies. He expresses the stress he's had when the actors did not show up on time, when the weather conditions changed dramatically or when the production company announced to cut off a significant portion of the film budget. He also depicts his delight when he's got astonishing performance from his actors and actresses, when the cameraman managed to do a better job than he had even planned. His telling of these remarks are inspiring, indeed. 'Making Movies' is a great source, although not necessarily a technical source, for all people either working or interested in the film world. A wonderful book to both read and have in shelf.

Get this book if you want to know what a year-in-the-life of a powerhouse filmmaker is like. If you are a beginner with an indie, much of Lumet's experiences are not going to apply. They are simply going to make you want to work harder on your indie so that you can get where he got! However, Lumet does NOT deceive. He never promises you any how-to information. He simply calls his book "Making Movies", and that is exactly the subject matter to which he sticks. His honesty does not go unnoticed, although he maybe should have called the book, "Making MY Movies".

Lumet's book is one of the best film books I've read. It explains all the technical terms, and has diagrams to accompany the text. It explains the process of making movies step by step, and shows the glamorous and not so glamorous parts of the industry. This book is definitely for people who are interested in the art of filmmaking, for fun or for work.

This novel was written for those who love movies, and for aspiring filmmakers. It gives the common

person an insight and an appreciation for what it takes to make a film, and have it be successful. This is not a too technical book which only relies on "movie" terminology, but instead Lumet actually talks to the reader as if he was really in a conversation with you. He breaks down movie terms so they are easy to understand. Lumet also does not hold back any of his opinions on anybody. He will literally say how he feels about certain people on a film crew and how he reacts to everyone's ego. Lumet does not make himself out to be the best filmmaker alive, yet he becomes a real person which anyone could be friends with. This novel can easily be read by one who has never seen any of his movies; but one who knows Lumet's work well can really relate to this novel. This is because Lumet talks about how he dealt with real life situations making his movies and not just some hypothetical situation. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and would read it again and again. It is a necessary addition to anyone's library who truly enjoys movies and can appreciate its' artistic qualities

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