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# Directing The Documentary Michael Rabiger

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## NATHAN BRYCE

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*Between Still and Moving Images* Open Book Publishers  
Producing for TV and New Media provides a comprehensive look at the role of the "Producer in television and new media. At the core of every media project there is a Producer who provides a wide array of creative, technical, financial, and interpersonal skills. Written especially for new and aspiring producers, this book looks at both the Big Picture and the essential details of this demanding and exhilarating profession. A series of interviews with seasoned TV producers who share their real-world professional practices provides rich insight into the complex billion-dollar industries of television and new media. This type of practical insight is not to be found in other books on producing.

This new edition now covers striking developments in new media, delivery systems, the expansion of the global marketplace of media content.

*Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction* Taylor & Francis  
A New History of Documentary Film, Second Edition offers a much-needed resource, considering the very rapid changes taking place within documentary media. Building upon the best-selling 2005 edition, Betsy McLane keeps the same chronological examination, factual reliability, ease of use and accessible prose style as before, while also weaving three new threads - Experimental Documentary, Visual Anthropology and Environmental/Nature Films - into the discussion. She provides emphasis on archival and preservation history, present practices, and future needs for documentaries. Along with preservation information, specific problems of copyright and fair use, as they relate to documentary, are considered. Finally, A History of

Documentary Film retains and updates the recommended readings and important films and the end of each chapter from the first edition, including the bibliography and appendices. Impossible to talk learnedly about documentary film without an audio-visual component, a companion website will increase its depth of information and overall usefulness to students, teachers and film enthusiasts.

**Media Ethics, Technology and Global Change** CRC Press

Documentary students and fans revel in stories about filmmakers conquering extraordinary challenges trying to bring their work to the screen. This book brings vividly to life the sometimes humorous, sometimes excruciating-and always inspiring-stories behind the making of some of the greatest documentaries of our time. All of the filmmakers and films profiled are Oscar-nominated or Oscar-winning. *Documentary Case Studies* walks readers through the fixes and missteps that today's documentary leaders worked through at all stages to create their masterworks-from development, fundraising and pre-production, through production and then post. There are plenty of "how to" documentary filmmaking books in circulation, but this book will instead deploy a personal, intimate, and candid approach to unlocking the secrets of the craft and the business by meeting filmmakers who tackle production challenges in the most resourceful and unconventional ways.

**Documentary Case Studies** Penguin

*Directing the Documentary* is the definitive book on the documentary form, that will allow you to master the craft of documentary filmmaking. Focusing on the hands-on work needed to make your concept a reality, it covers the documentary

filmmaking process from top to bottom, providing in-depth lessons on every aspect of preproduction, production, and postproduction. The book includes dozens of projects, practical exercises, and thought-provoking questions, and offers best practices for researching and honing your documentary idea, developing a crew, guiding your team, and much more. This fully revised and updated 7th edition also includes brand new content on the rise of the documentary series, the impact of video on-demand and content aggregators, updated information on prosumer and professional video (including 4K+), coverage of new audio & lighting solutions and trends in post-production, coverage of the immersive documentary, and provides practical sets of solutions for low, medium, and high budget documentary film productions throughout. The companion website has also been fully updated to a variety of new projects and forms. By combining expert advice on the storytelling process, the technical aspects of filmmaking and commentary on the philosophical underpinnings of the art, this book provides the practical and holistic understanding you need to become a highly regarded, original, and ethical contributor to the genre. Ideal for both aspiring and established documentary filmmakers, this book has it all.

The Search for "reality" CRC Press

Rabiger offers an integrated approach to directing of documentaries, covering the technical, intellectual, and emotional aspects. With anecdotes from his own filmmaking experience, he takes the reader through pre- and post-production processes. He covers conceptualization, and also discusses education and career possibilities, presents a project-oriented

track, along with valuable checklists. The volume also includes an annotated bibliography, and a glossary of technical terms. ISBN 0-240-51794-6 (pbk.): \$24.95.

CRC Press

The Documentary Filmmaker's Roadmap is a concise and practical guide to making a feature-length documentary film—from funding to production to distribution, exhibition and marketing. Using her award-winning film *Musicwood*—a New York Times Critics' Pick—as a case study, director Maxine Trump guides the reader through the complex lifecycle of the documentary film. Her interviews with lawyers, funders, distributors, TV executives and festival programmers provide a behind-the-scenes look that will assist readers on their own filmmaking journey. Written from the perspective of a successful documentary filmmaker, the book covers mistakes made and lessons learned, a discussion on the documentary genre, crowdfunding, pre-production through post, test screenings, the festival circuit distribution, legal pitfalls, fair use and more. Perfect for documentary filmmaking students and aspiring filmmakers alike, this book emphasizes the skills needed to succeed in a competitive production market. An appendix includes useful web links for further study, a list of films for recommended viewing and sample release forms. This concise guide is ideal for the classroom or as a quick reference out in the field, at a budget meeting or in the editing room.

Script Supervising and Film Continuity U of Minnesota Press

An updated edition of the classic filmmaker's handbook discusses each step in creating documentaries from conception to final film, and offers advice on capturing human behavior and recreating

past events, with new advice on how to get started in the field, an expanded section on researching and developing a project, and updated resources. Original. 15,000 first printing.

**Second Edition** Routledge

Directing for the Screen is a collection of essays and interviews exploring the business of directing. This highly accessible guide to working in film and television includes perspectives from industry insiders on topics such as breaking in; developing and nurturing business relationships; the director's responsibilities on set and in the field; and more. Directing for the Screen is an ideal companion to filmmaking classes, demystifying the industry and the role of the director with real-world narratives and little-known truths about the business. With insight from working professionals, you'll be armed with the information you need to pursue your career as a director. Contains essays by and interviews with television directors, feature directors, documentary filmmakers, commercial directors, producers, and professors. Offers expert opinions on how to get started, including landing and succeeding in an internship and getting your first gig. Reveals details about working with actors, overseeing the work of often hundreds of crewmembers, writing last-minute on set, and developing a working relationship with producers and screenwriters. Explores strategies for doing creative work under pressure, finding your directorial voice, financing shorts and independent films, breaking down barriers and overcoming discrimination, shooting in less-than-ideal situations, and recovering from bad reviews or box office results. Illuminates the business of directing in the United States (New York and Los Angeles) as compared to other countries around the

globe, including England, Ireland, Spain, Australia, Denmark, Pakistan, Belgium, and Canada.

*Directing the Documentary* Butterworth-Heinemann

"A towering achievement, and a volume I know I'll be consulting on a regular basis."-Leonard Maltin "Authoritative, accessible, and elegantly written, *Screening Reality* is the history of American documentary film we have been waiting for." --Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times film critic From Edison to IMAX, Ken Burns to virtual environments, the first comprehensive history of American documentary film and the remarkable men and women who changed the way we view the world. Amidst claims of a new "post-truth" era, documentary filmmaking has experienced a golden age. Today, more documentaries are made and widely viewed than ever before, illuminating our increasingly fraught relationship with what's true in politics and culture. For most of our history, Americans have depended on motion pictures to bring the realities of the world into view. And yet the richly complex, ever-evolving relationship between nonfiction movies and American history is virtually unexplored. *Screening Reality* is a widescreen view of how American "truth" has been discovered, defined, projected, televised, and streamed during more than one hundred years of dramatic change, through World Wars I and II, the dawn of mass media, the social and political turmoil of the sixties and seventies, and the communications revolution that led to a twenty-first century of empowered yet divided Americans. In the telling, professional filmmaker Jon Wilkman draws on his own experience, as well as the stories of inventors, adventurers, journalists, entrepreneurs, artists, and activists who framed and filtered the world to inform, persuade, awe, and entertain.

Interweaving American and motion picture history, and an inquiry into the nature of truth on screen, *Screening Reality* is essential and fascinating reading for anyone looking to expand an understanding of the American experience and today's truth-challenged times.

*Directing for the Screen* *Directing the Documentary*

*Directing the Documentary* is a comprehensive manual that has inspired over 100,000 readers worldwide. If you are interested in making documentary films, everything you need technically and conceptually is here. Filled with practical advice on every stage of production, this is the book you will return to throughout your career. *Directing the Documentary* covers the methods, technologies, thought processes, and judgments that a director must use throughout the fascinating process of making a film. It emphasizes low-cost digital technology, which allows cutting-edge creativity and professionalism on shoestring budgets. And, recognizing that you learn best by doing, the book includes dozens of practical hands-on projects and activities to help you master technical and conceptual skills. Just as important as surmounting technological hurdles is the conceptual and authorial side of filmmaking. This book offers eminently practical tools and exercises to help you develop credible and compelling stories. It shows you how to surpass mere technical proficiency and become a storyteller with a distinctive voice and style. Please visit <http://directingthedocumentary.com> for the book's companion website. (Please refer to the access code printed on the inside back cover of the book to obtain access to the companion site).

**The Art of the Documentary** Bloomsbury Publishing USA

This fluent and comprehensive field guide responds to increased interest, across the humanities, in the ways in which digital technologies can disrupt and open up new research and pedagogical avenues. It is designed to help scholars and students engage with their subjects using an audio-visual grammar, and to allow readers to efficiently gain the technical and theoretical skills necessary to create and disseminate their own trans-media projects. *Documentary Making for Digital Humanists* sets out the fundamentals of filmmaking, explores academic discourse on digital documentaries and online distribution, and considers the place of this discourse in the evolving academic landscape. The book walks its readers through the intellectual and practical processes of creating digital media and documentary projects. It is further equipped with video elements, supplementing specific chapters and providing brief and accessible introductions to the key components of the filmmaking process. This will be a valuable resource to humanist scholars and students seeking to embrace new media production and the digital landscape, and to those researchers interested in using means beyond the written word to disseminate their work. It constitutes a welcome contribution to the burgeoning field of digital humanities, as the first practical guide of its kind designed to facilitate humanist interactions with digital filmmaking, and to empower scholars and students alike to create and distribute new media audio-visual artefacts.

**Directing Single Camera Drama** Taylor & Francis

This ambitious book from author, producer and director Michael Tobias draws together the voices of 40 renowned documentary filmmakers from around the world. These contributors shed

unique light on contemporary culture and aesthetics, the filmmaker's commitment to the documentary form, and the documentary production process from concept to marketplace. They also probe provocative questions: What is reality in a documentary? Can and should there be objectivity in a documentary? What is the role of social advocacy in a documentary? How do new production technologies affect a documentary's message? This is the first book that brings together an international roster of documentary filmmakers to speak about the very heart and soul of their art. It should prove to be an invaluable guide for both professionals and students, and will appeal to general filmgoers as well.

**How Documentary Filmmakers Reimagined America**

Pearson Education

This new edition of Bill Nichols's bestselling text provides an up-to-date introduction to the most important issues in documentary history and criticism. Designed for students in any field that makes use of visual evidence and persuasive strategies, *Introduction to Documentary* identifies the distinguishing qualities of documentary and teaches the viewer how to read documentary film. Each chapter takes up a discrete question, from "How did documentary filmmaking get started?" to "Why are ethical issues central to documentary filmmaking?" Carefully revised to take account of new work and trends, this volume includes information on more than 100 documentaries released since the first edition, an expanded treatment of the six documentary modes, new still images, and a greatly expanded list of distributors.

*A New History of Documentary Film* Taylor & Francis

With *On Screen Writing*, director Edward Dmytryk offers a clear, methodical overview of the needs, practices, and problems of screenwriting, including extensive coverage of adaptation. Written in an informal, anecdotal style and using script examples from Hollywood classics, Dmytryk presents a practical set of principles for writing engaging, filmable screenplays. Originally published in 1985, this reissue of Dmytryk's classic screenwriting book includes a new critical introduction by Mick Hurbis-Cherrier, as well as chapter lessons, discussion questions, exercises, and a glossary.

*On Screen Writing* Taylor & Francis

*Think/Point/Shoot* gives students a thorough overview of the role of ethics in modern media creation. Case studies emphasize the critical issues in global media ethics today in all stages of media creation from preproduction research and development, to production and post production. This volume features practicing filmmakers, journalists, and media creators who provide insight into dealing with real-world ethical dilemmas. For this era, digital imagery, sounds, and web communication have opened doors to sharing thoughts and ideas instantaneously to potentially vast audiences. This presents exciting opportunities, but also serious ethical, legal, and social challenges. The cases and exercises found in this book are applicable to the current media field while still remaining grounded in strong ethical theory.

*Think/Point/Shoot* explains the challenge of communicating a story to a worldwide audience while maintaining ethical standards. A companion website provides additional resources for students and instructors: media ethics game chapter summaries and case studies important forms Instructors will also find:

classroom exercises PowerPoints video from the "Global Media Ethics" Conference from March 2013

**The Power and Purpose of Storytelling** Taylor & Francis

*Documentary Storytelling* has reached filmmakers and filmgoers worldwide with its unique focus on the key ingredient for success in the growing global documentary marketplace: storytelling. This practical guide reveals how today's top filmmakers bring the tools of narrative cinema to the world of nonfiction film and video without sacrificing the rigor and truthfulness that give documentaries their power. The book offers practical advice for producers, directors, editors, cinematographers, writers and others seeking to make ethical and effective films that merge the strengths of visual and aural media with the power of narrative storytelling. In this new, updated edition, Emmy Award-winning author Sheila Curran Bernard offers: New strategies for analyzing documentary work New conversations with filmmakers including Stanley Nelson (*The Black Panthers*), Kazuhiro Soda (*Mental*), Orlando von Einsiedel (*Virunga*), and Cara Mertes (*JustFilms*) Discussions previously held with Susan Kim (*Imaginary Witness*), Deborah Scranton (*The War Tapes*), Alex Gibney (*Taxi to the Dark Side*), and James Marsh (*Man on Wire*).

*Think/Point/Shoot* CRC Press

*Directing the Documentary*, Sixth Edition is the definitive book on the form, offering time-tested principles to help you master the craft. Ideal for documentary courses as well as aspiring and established documentary filmmakers, this book has it all, with in-depth lessons and insider perspectives on every aspect of preproduction, production, and postproduction. Focusing on the hands-on work needed to make your concept a reality, this new

edition covers it all, from the fundamental to advanced elements of directing and more. It includes dozens of projects, practical exercises, and thought-provoking questions, and provides best practices for researching and honing your documentary idea, developing a crew, guiding your team, maintaining control throughout the shoot, and much more. This new edition features: A two-stage cinematic learning process: camera observation skills, then advanced storytelling Dozens of real-world exercises and case studies to demystify production processes and enhance your skills Easy-to-comprehend guidance in the creative, technical, and artistic aspects of directing Fresh coverage of the latest filmmaking technology Expanded sections on grant writing and fundraising, emphasizing proposal and pitching skills A self-assessment of your interviewing skills and expanded coverage of narration-writing A companion website ([www.directingthedocumentary.com](http://www.directingthedocumentary.com)) that includes handy production checklists and forms, updated projects, exercises, and video examples In *Directing the Documentary, Sixth Edition* Michael Rabiger combines expert advice on the storytelling process and technical aspects of documentary filmmaking with sound commentary on the philosophical underpinnings of the art, providing the practical and holistic understanding you need to become a highly-regarded, original, and ethical contributor to the genre.

### **Principles & Practice** Routledge

This essential handbook for beginning and professional video and filmmakers has now been updated to include sample budgets for indie features, documentaries, music videos, student projects, plus revised budgets for today's digital production.

### **Collecting Visible Evidence** Oxford University Press

Directing drama for the single camera is like no other form of Filmmaking, or any other medium involving actors. Experience in documentary or theatre may provide useful clues, but the techniques for drama film directors, although not basically complicated, are unique. Experienced directors in other spheres of directing will find this book invaluable if they wish to move into single camera drama, as will students setting out on their careers. *Directing Single Camera Drama* is a synthesis of the skills required to bring drama to the screen. Directing drama for the single camera is like no other form of Filmmaking, or any other medium involving actors. Experience in documentary or theatre may provide useful clues, but the techniques for drama film directors, although not basically complicated, are unique. Experienced directors in other spheres of directing will find this book invaluable if they wish to move into single camera drama, as will students setting out on their careers. *Directing Single Camera Drama* is a synthesis of the skills required to bring drama to the screen. A unique feature of the book is the inclusion of ten short film drama scripts which need only half a day's rehearsal and one short day's filming. Each have their various technical demands, and they are arranged in ascending order of dramatic and creative difficulty. They can be photocopied and used for non-broadcast training drama exercises. Mike Crisp worked as Production Manager, and later Director, on many classic BBC TV series, such as *Fawlty Towers*, *Porridge* and *Steptoe and Son*. He was, for 10 years, a senior producer with the BBC's TV Training Department. He is the author of *The Practical Director* now in its second edition and also published by Focal Press. Reviews:

'Directors in other spheres of directing who wish to move into single camera drama will find this book invaluable, as will students setting out on their careers.' Voice of the Listener

**Writing the Short Film** Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Voice & Vision is a comprehensive manual for the independent filmmakers and film students who want a solid grounding in the tools, techniques, and processes of narrative film in order to achieve their artistic vision. This book includes essential and detailed information on relevant film and digital video tools, a thorough overview of the filmmaking stages, and the aesthetic considerations for telling a visual story. The ultimate goal of this book is to help you develop your creative voice while acquiring the solid practical skills and confidence to use it. Unlike many books that privilege raw technical information or the line-producing aspects of production, Voice & Vision places creativity, visual expression, and cinematic ideas front and center. After all,

every practical decision a filmmaker makes, like choosing a location, an actor, a film stock, a focal length, a lighting set-up, an edit point, or a sound effect is also an expressive one and should serve the filmmaker's vision. Every decision, from the largest conceptual choices to the smallest practical solutions, has a profound impact on what appears on the screen and how it moves an audience. "In Practice sidebars throughout Voice & Vision connect conceptual, aesthetic and technical issues to their application in the real world. Some provide a brief analysis of a scene or technique from easily rentable films which illustrate how a specific technology or process is used to support a conceptual, narrative, or aesthetic choice. Others recount common production challenges encountered on real student and professional shoots which will inspire you to be innovative and resourceful when you are solving your own filmmaking challenges.