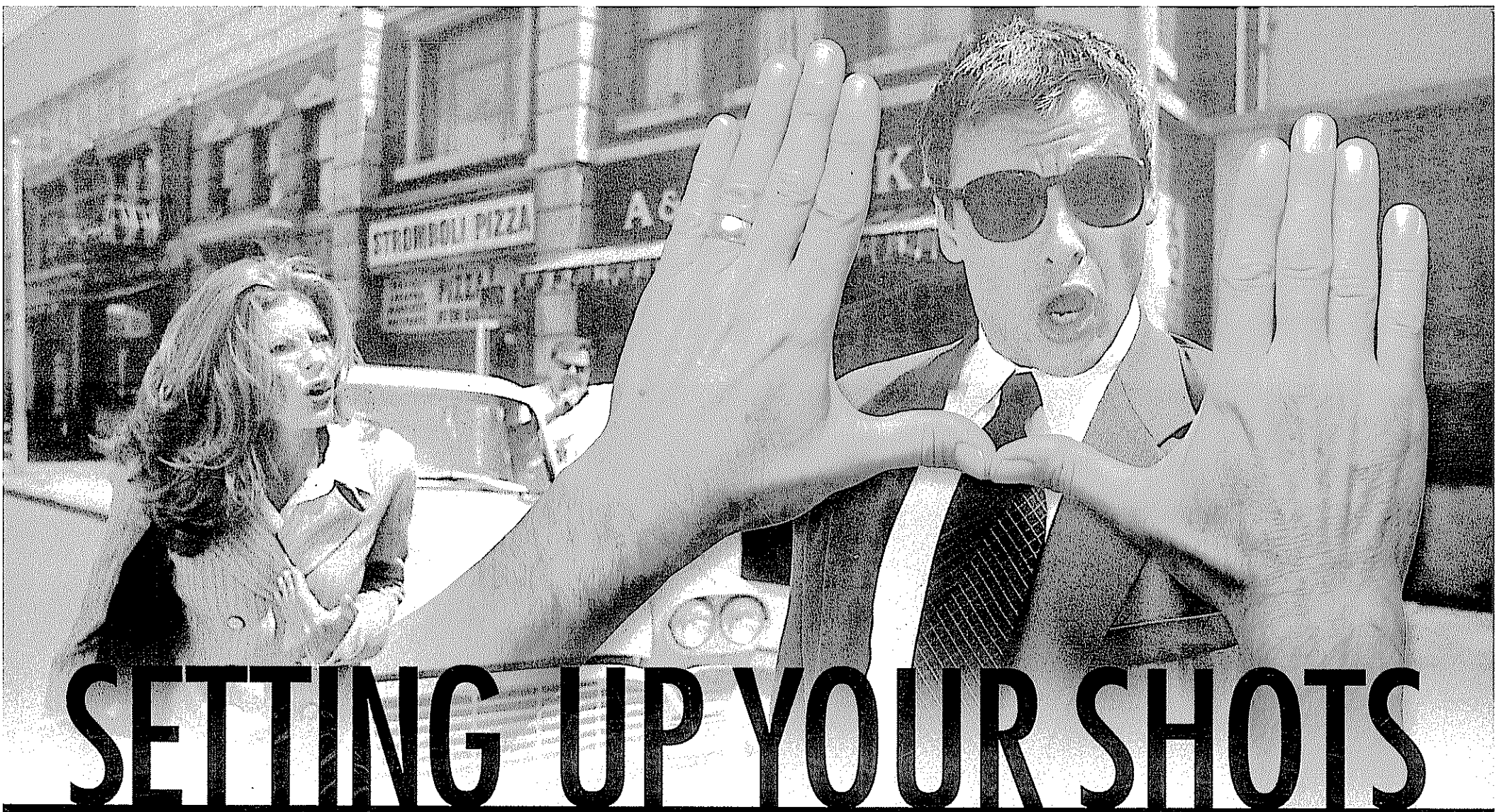
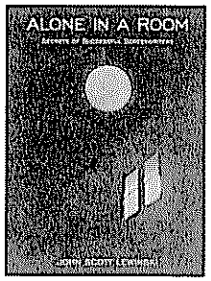


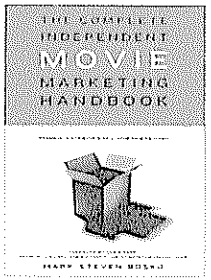
SETTING UP YOUR SHOTS

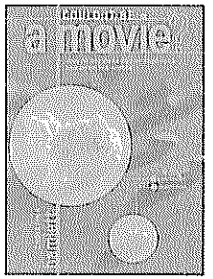
Great Camera Moves Every Filmmaker Should Know

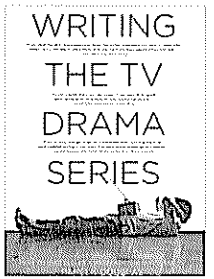
By Jeremy Vineyard

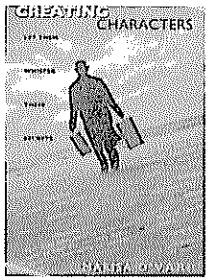
Illustrated by Jose Cruz

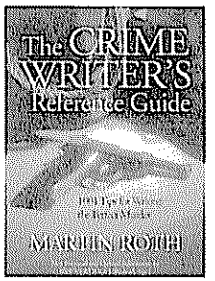


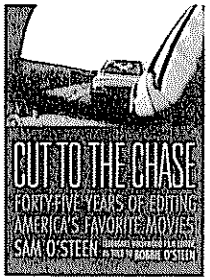


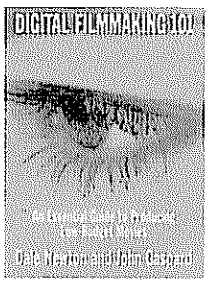


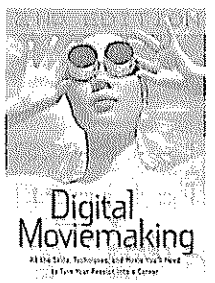


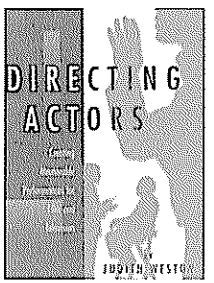


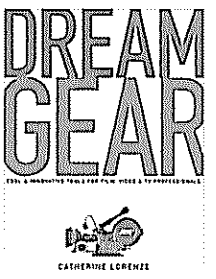


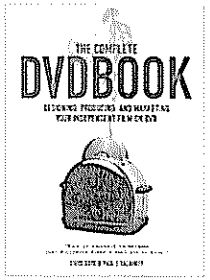


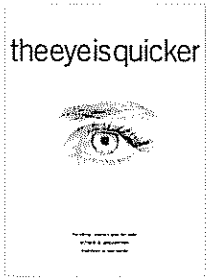


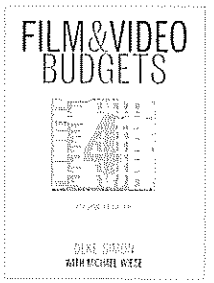


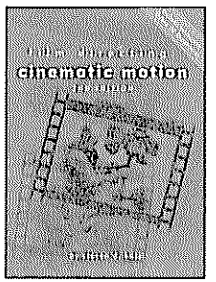


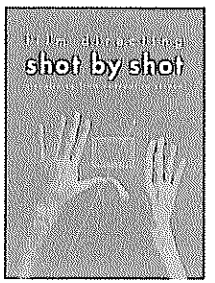


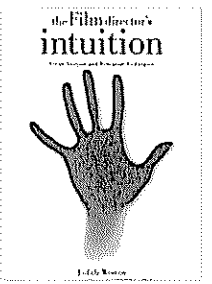


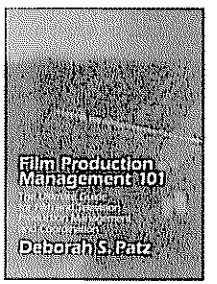


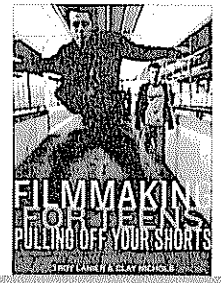


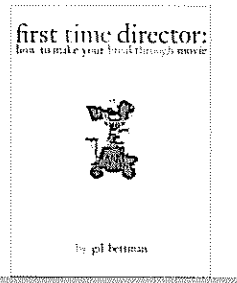


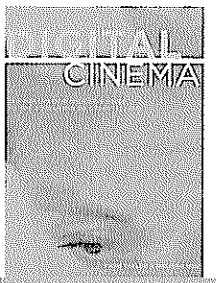


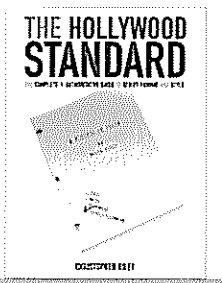


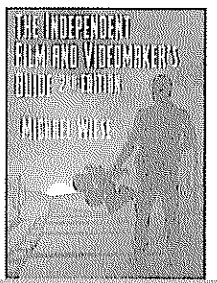


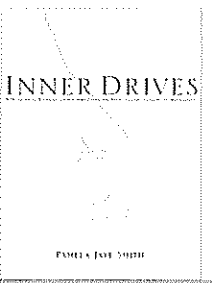


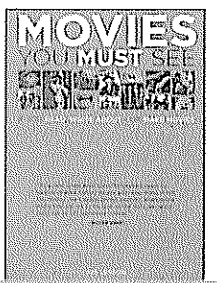


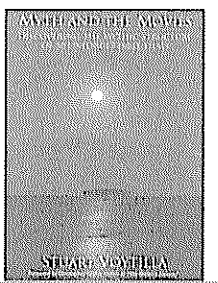












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"Perfect for any film enthusiast looking for the secrets behind creating film... it is a great addition to the collection of students and film pros alike."
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Creator of Storyboard Artist and Storyboard Quick software

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Cory Williams
President, Alternative Productions

Setting Up Your Shots

Great Camera Moves Every Filmmaker Should Know

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I found the Internet Movie Database to be invaluable when researching this book. The IMDB is an online database with information about thousands of films, television shows, actors, directors, writers, and more. The Internet address for their Web site is: www.imdb.com.

Also, thanks to the video rental chains out there that carry foreign films and alternative fare. Watching movies is kept interesting by their selections.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

If you are a new filmmaker, this book is perfect for you. You can browse through the pages in any order, discovering new cinematic techniques. You can use those techniques in your own films, watch the movies that are listed to see how the professionals use them, and grow as a filmmaker.

If you are a film buff, you'll find that this book is very easy to understand, even for those who don't know anything about the film industry. If you want to know more about how movies work, learn the techniques and watch for them in your favorite films. Learn to enjoy the moviegoing experience more fully by understanding how cinema really works.

If you are an experienced filmmaker, a storyboard artist, or an animator, use this book as a reference. It is the culmination of hundreds of hours of research. Why should you have to spend that amount of time when it's already been done for you?

Please enjoy.

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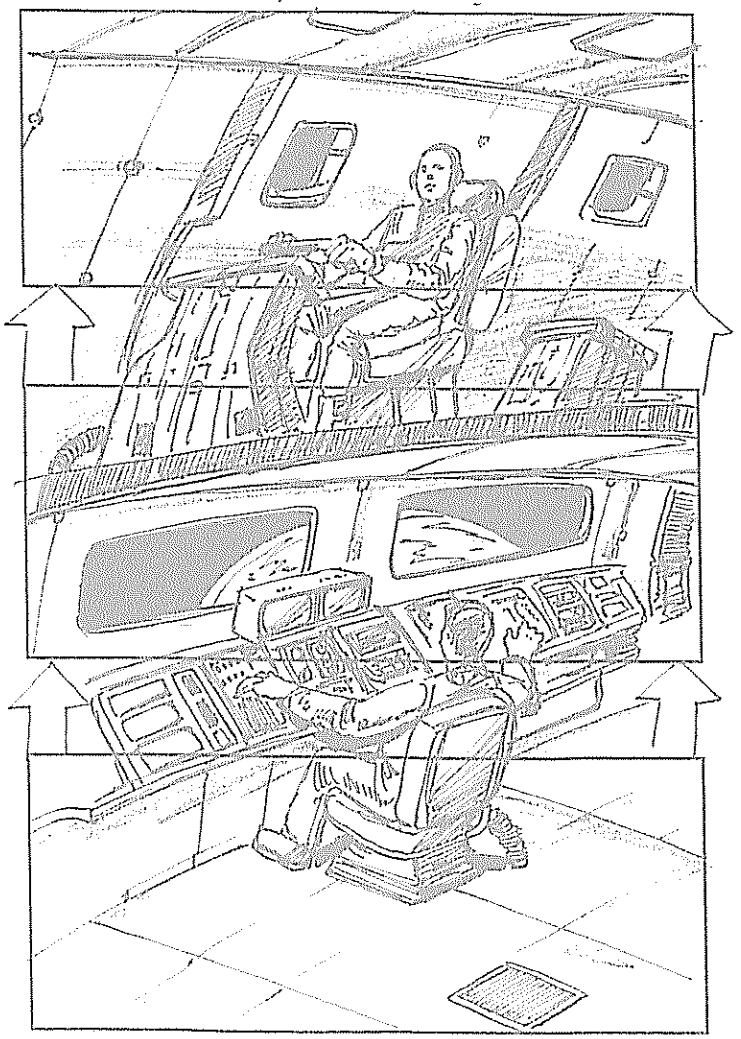

INTRODUCTION

This book began several years ago, when I became interested in how movies work. I started to re-view movie scenes in order to learn, jotting down cinematic techniques that I saw. Eventually, I began to recognize common techniques that were used in many different films. I continued to find and record cinematic techniques until that research formed the genesis of this book.

By reading this book, you will soon be able to identify many of the techniques used in films, commercials, and music videos. This knowledge is invaluable for film students, and should be helpful for anyone who wants to find out how movies "work." Of course there is no way that I could cover every possible filmmaking technique, so only some of the most common are included here.

Each cinematic technique has been given a unique name— a condensed version of the technique's purpose and description. The names are arbitrary— you can call them whatever you want. The advantage to a label is that it gives you a tool to identify techniques used in the films you watch. This skill will greatly enhance your ability to learn from other people's films.

I have listed example films for many of these techniques, as well as storyboards. The disadvantage of illustrations is that they cannot fully represent a cinematic technique. If you are interested in a particular technique, rent one of the example films and watch it. You may even find yourself watching films that wouldn't have interested you before.

Filmmaking is much more than a technical skill. It's about establishing relationships with the cast and crew, becoming a leader, and pursuing your vision. Technical knowledge alone won't guarantee that you'll become a great filmmaker, but it will help you become more fluent in the language of cinema.