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Master Shots Vol 1, 2nd Edition: 100 Advanced Camera Techniques To Get An Expensive Look On Your Low Budget Movie



Synopsis

Master Shots gives filmmakers the techniques they need to execute complex, original shots on any budget. By using powerful master shots and well-executed moves, you can develop a strong style and stand out from the crowd. Most low-budget movies look low-budget, because the director is forced to compromise at the last minute. Master Shots gives you so many powerful techniques that you'll be able to respond, even under pressure, and create knock-out shots. When the clock is ticking and the light is fading, the techniques in this book can rescue your film, and make every shot look like it cost a fortune. Every technique is illustrated with samples from great feature films and computer-generated diagrams for absolute clarity.

Book Information

Paperback: 241 pages

Publisher: Michael Wiese Productions; 2 edition (April 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1615930876

ISBN-13: 978-1615930876

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 0.6 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (55 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #28,920 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Cinematography #18 in Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Film & Television #388 in Â Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts

Customer Reviews

I haven't sat down and read this book straight through yet, but that isn't necessarily the intent either. This is a reference book and actually a quite ingenious tool. It's like training wheels for a new director or DP - when breaking down a script for a story board or shot list, you can simply skim through the book for the type of scene you are doing and find the various shot setups with full descriptions of how they are used and what they do to convey the different emotions you would be going for in the scene. There are pictures everywhere that clearly illustrate the setups, so it is easy to navigate the book and quickly understand the technique. The author recommends buying several copies for crew members and actually using it on set for reference to the look you are building. I don't know if that would work on a lot of sets, but indie projects and student films with inexperienced crews could greatly benefit from that kind of reference point. I'm definitely going to use it liberally in

storyboarding an upcoming short film. The bottom line is, I can't think of any reason not to have this book.

I've been a professional photographer for many years and was interested in translating "still" shots into film/digital live motion. I understand the lighting fundamentals and scene set-ups as well as many DOF applications and post photo retouches. Although this book doesn't go into the technical lighting and DOP / shutter speed details of shooting film/digital, it makes up for that by demonstrating camera set-up and movement and how these kinds of shots set certain moods or lead ins for establishing scenes. Considering this, I must say that those that have an understanding of lighting and focal length, shutter speed, etc. (fundamental photo and video theory), will benefit the most from this book. If you're a novice, I recommend carefully looking at the illustrative photos and thinking more about how the lighting and DOP, etc. contribute to "selling" the shot and also pick-up a book on lighting and scene set-up fundamentals. In general, great book that dissects the many camera technique and movements used in MANY if not all movies that we take for granted. Also has great real world examples to convey that technique so you can view it for yourself if you're ambitious enough.

I read the reviews of this book and found it to be very useful. For an amateur film maker, this helps explain how to execute your ideas on to film. The book goes through different scenes from actual movies and explains the mechanics of taking the scene. The pictures are poorly done and the computer generated image doesn't really help. Color and brightness could have been better. It gives you examples of how to evoke emotion from the audience through the shot such as feeling confined, being chased, etc. It also gives insight to multiple cuts in one scene to add more feel to it. I liked the book even though I wasn't too happy with the pictures and illustrations.

This book is amazing. I mostly shoot videos for YouTube, which means I have a budget of \$0 on most things. However, I wanted a higher quality look on the shots. An Assistant Director on a film that I was working on suggested this book to me, and it did not let me down. I'm so excited to shoot more scenes like those demo'd in the book. For someone with a degree in filming, this may be old news, but for someone like me that is starting out; I feel like it is an awesome crash course to getting the shots you want.

No need for a 500 page manual on setting up some clever shots. This smaller book does the job

and does it well. It has an easy to understand walk through for each shot and diagrams and examples to go with them. I will grab Volume 2 as well I think!

This is one of a series of books that suggest great compositions for video scenes. The information is generally very good, but sometimes the illustrations are poor. Regardless, I found the explanations for how the shot is motivated to be very helpful. My only complaints are (1) the wide format of the book and large size is very cumbersome, and (2) I wish all three books were combined into one. I suppose the 2nd and 3rd volumes were introduced after the publisher saw market interest in the first. However, the size and awkward format of these three books is unwieldy to carry around to video shoots. In spite of my nit picking, I would recommend these books to directors and camera operators, as there are many good examples of shots to consider.

Master Shots continues to be a nice reference to demonstrate to students ways to tell stories visually. Often students have only seen stories told in traditional EST/Master/Single/Single structure. This book provides a nice visual reference for other ways to tell a story with references to films and how shots were incorporated. Not to just simply be a crib sheet for the lazy director, Master Shots provides reminders of how to get out of the ordinary camera set-ups.

Highly recommended for directors and cinematographers who want to learn more about how to get great shots for their production! Very helpful in all stages of production, not just filming!

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