

Planning the Low-Budget Film

By Robert Latham Brown


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Finalist, 2007 Benjamin Franklin Awards, for Best New Voice Nonfiction and Professional/Technical

Novice and aspiring filmmakers seeking to learn how to develop a feature film will find a step-by-step blueprint in this guide. Drawing upon the more than 30-years experience of an industry professional, the book examines how to identify and break down shooting sequences in scripts, scout locations, create a production board and shooting schedule, deal with unions, budget a film, and rebound when it all goes wrong. Along the way, readers learn how to economize to get the most value from limited funds and what to look for in a prospective crew. To facilitate an understanding of the concepts, a real-life example of a complete budget and production board for an independent low-budget feature film, *The Anarchist Cookbook*, is provided. The guide's concise list of contacts—film commissions in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and England; payroll companies; and vendors of supplies—along with a directory of unions and guides will simplify sourcing. Other supplementary aids include a complete glossary of industry terms, a list of all safety bulletins issued by the Industry Wide Labor/Management Safety committee, and a comprehensive index.

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Editorial Review

Review

"On all the movies [Bob Brown] worked on with me, he never failed to bring a film in on time and on budget. This book is a must read for anybody who is even thinking of producing a film!" —Mel Brooks

"This comprehensive book . . . can apply to films of any sized budget. I wish all film schools used it."
—Gary Martin, president of production, Columbia/Tristar Motion Picture Group

"You will make a better movie for less money using this book . . . the ultimate guide to budgeting and scheduling the low-budget movie." —Bruce Block, producer, *Father of the Bride*, *Something's Gotta Give*, and *What Women Want*

"An invaluable resource for anyone who wants to make a movie; essential for students and professionals alike." —Brenda Goodman, senior lecturer and head of the production track at the University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television.

About the Author

Robert Latham Brown teaches production planning at the University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television. His credits include producer, line producer, production manager, and second-unit director on films such as *The Anarchist Cookbook*; *Child's Play*; *Child's Play 2: Chucky's Back*; *Child's Play 3: Look Who's Stalking*; *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*; *Local Color*; *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*; *S.W.A.T.*; and *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*. He lives in Los Angeles.

Users Review

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