List of the 100 Greatest Film Books of All Time

Based on 322 ballots from distinguished members of the global film community who were asked to consider “quality, impact and influence”; coordinated by THR executive editor awards, Scott Feinberg, and released on Oct. 11, 2023.

1. Hitchcock [aka Hitchcock/Truffaut], by François Truffaut (1967)
5. I Lost It at the Movies, by Pauline Kael (1965)
7. You’ll Never Eat Lunch in This Town Again, by Julia Phillips (1991)
11. What Makes Sammy Run? by Budd Schulberg (1941)
12. The Parade’s Gone By ..., by Kevin Brownlow (1983)
13. The Day of the Locust, by Nathanael West (1939)
15. Mike Nichols: A Life, by Mark Harris (2021)
16. The American Cinema: Directors and Directions, 1929-1968, by Andrew Sarris (1968)
20. (tie) Final Cut: Dreams and Disaster in the Making of Heaven’s Gate, by Steven Bach (1985)
22. (tie) Conversations With Wilder, by Cameron Crowe (1999)
22. (tie) The Last Tycoon, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, finished by Edmund Wilson (1941)
27. Memo From David O. Selznick: The Creation of Gone With the Wind and Other Motion Picture Classics, as Revealed in the Producer’s Private Letters, Telegrams, Memorandums and Autobiographical Remarks, by Rudy Behlmer (1972)
30. (tie) Pictures: A Story About Hollywood, by Lillian Ross (1952)
32. (tie) Agee on Film [Vols. 1 and 2], by James Agee (1958 & 1960)
32. (tie) Play It as It Lays, by Joan Didion (1970)
34. Postcards From the Edge, by Carrie Fisher (1987)
36. Who the Devil Made It, by Peter Bogdanovich (1997)
38. (tie) The Name Above the Title: An Autobiography, by Frank Capra (1971)
38. (tie) Tom’s, Coons, Mulattos, Mammies and Bucks: An Interpretive History of Blacks in American Films, by Donald Bogle (1973)
42. A Biographical Dictionary of Cinema [aka The New Biographical Dictionary of Film], by David Thomson (1975)
43. Notes on the Cinematograph, by Robert Bresson (1973)
45. Life Itself, by Roger Ebert (2011)
47. Get Shorty, by Elmore Leonard (1990)
50. This Is Orson Welles, by Peter Bogdanovich & Orson Welles, edited by Jonathan Rosenbaum (1988)
51. (tie) Cinema Speculation, by Quentin Tarantino (2022)
51. (tie) From Caligari to Hitler: A Psychological History of the German Film, by Siegfried Kracauer (1947)
51. (tie) Notes: The Making of Apocalypse Now, by Eleanor Coppola (1979)
57. (tie) Godard on Godard, by Jean-Luc Godard, edited by Tom Milne (1972)
59. (tie) My Last Sigh, by Luis Buñuel (1983)
61. (tie) My Autobiography, by Charlie Chaplin (1964)
64. (tie) Story: Substance, Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting, by Robert McKee (1997)
66. (tie) Film Form and the Film Sense, by Sergei Eisenstein (1958)
69. (tie) 85 Years of the Oscar: The Official History of the Academy Awards, by Robert Osborne (2013)
69. (tie) 5001 Nights at the Movies, by Pauline Kael (1982)
72. (tie) A Life in Movies, by Michael Powell (1987)
72. (tie) Mommie Dearest, by Christina Crawford (1978)
72. (tie) Scorsese on Scorsese, by Ian Christie & David Thompson (1989)
76. (tie) Montgomery Clift: A Biography, by Patricia Bosworth (1978)
76. (tie) My Lunches With Orson: Conversations Between Henry Jaglom and Orson Welles, edited by Peter Biskind (2013)
76. (tie) Valley of the Dolls, by Jacqueline Susann (1966)
83. (tie) By Myself, by Lauren Bacall (1978)
83. (tie) Conversations With the Great Moviemakers of Hollywood’s Golden Age at the American Film Institute and Conversations at the American Film Institute With the Great Moviemakers: The Next Generation, by George Stevens Jr. (2006 & 2012)
88. (tie) Cassavetes on Cassavetes, by Ray Carney (2001)
88. (tie) Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators, by Ronan Farrow (2019)
88. (tie) A Killer Life: How an Independent Film Producer Survives Deals and Disasters in Hollywood and Beyond, by Christine Vachon, with Austin Bunn (2006)
88. (tie) The Moon’s a Balloon, by David Niven (1971)
88. (tie) Negative Space: Manny Farber on the Movies, by Manny Farber (1971)
98. (tie) Film as a Subversive Art, by Amos Vogel (1974)
98. (tie) Haywire: A Memoir, by Brooke Hayward (1977)
98. (tie) Transcendental Style in Film: Ozu, Bresson, Dreyer, by Paul Schrader (1972)