



The Declaration of Independent Filmmaking: An Insider's Guide to Making Movies Outside of Hollywood

By Mark Polish, Michael Polish, Jonathan Sheldon

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The Declaration of Independent Filmmaking: An Insider's Guide to Making Movies Outside of Hollywood By Mark Polish, Michael Polish, Jonathan Sheldon

Less than a decade since they began working in the movies, Mark and Michael Polish have established themselves as critically acclaimed, award-winning independent filmmakers. Their innovative approach to art direction, use of digital photography, and ability to attract stellar talent to their modestly budgeted films sprang from necessity; now these aesthetics have become admired trademarks of their work.

Infused with this same balance of artistic integrity and popular appeal, *The Declaration of Independent Filmmaking* is a practical guide to writing, shooting, editing, scoring, promoting, and distributing short and feature films. Mark and Michael have packed this book with star-studded, often hilarious tales from their own experiences--as well as helpful insider photos. This is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in filmmaking, whether a high school student with a \$500 budget or a serious filmmaker looking for a fresh approach.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This trio of award-winning independent film actors-writers-directors-producers reveal how their desire to make movies that fulfilled their vision led them to create a rigorous, economical regimen that, for those "willing to forego a visit to the dentist so they can instead buy film stock," and who aren't well-versed in the technical and logistical aspects of film-making, is well worth the book's cover price. Drawing on their experiences making three feature films (*Twin Falls Idaho* is perhaps the best known), the Polish brothers walk would-be filmmakers step-by-step from script-writing to post-production to distribution, with an explanation of each part of the process. The amount of detail packed into short chapters (particularly the chapters on directing and editing) is impressive, and informative sidebars and anecdotes about actors like James Woods and Nick Nolte complement the text's how-to aspects. With their wise and simple advice, the Polish brothers and their co-author, Sheldon, have done aspiring filmmakers (but not their dentists) a great favor. Photos.

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Review

PRAISE FOR THE POLISH BROTHERS' *NORTHFORK*

"Another masterpiece . . . After *Twin Falls, Idaho*, here's more evidence that the Polish twins are the real thing."--Roger Ebert, *Chicago Tribune*

PRAISE FOR THE POLISH BROTHERS' *TWIN FALLS, IDAHO*

"Eerily effective . . . *Twin Falls, Idaho* has style, gravity, and originality to spare."--*The New York Times*

From the Back Cover

"*The Declaration of Independent Filmmaking* is a well-organized, often hilarious guide for any first-time filmmaker's journey through the perilous and unpredictable world of independent filmmaking. By tracking the process of their films, from an idea's infancy to its realization in a distribution deal, the Polish Brothers take their unique and pragmatic methods and break them down into an easy how-to chronicle. Their determination, vision, and enthusiasm are evident both on screen and in writing. Their love of the process, the most important part of successful filmmaking, is inspiring."--Ridley Scott, director of *Blade Runner* and *Gladiator*

"Like their movies, the Polish Brothers' book is funny, insightful, delightful, odd, smart, and full of good ideas and truths. It's completely accessible for the absolute novice, and yet will still be helpful to those who have some experience (after making six films, I still learned a thing or two). I certainly plan to recommend it when I teach or mentor young filmmakers."--Keith Gordon, director of *A Midnight Clear*, *Waking the Dead*, and *Mother Night*

"All do-it-yourself filmmakers must experience their own blood, sweat, and fears. But everything else to be learned from the independent adventure can be found in this priceless and entertaining guide. Tried, true, and terrific, it's like having your most credible filmmaking friends offer their shoulders to stand on. This book is

an invaluable public service to would-be celluloid dreamers and schemers everywhere. Read it. It's your inalienable right."--Alan Rudolph, director of *Afterglow* and *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*

Mark and Michael Polish have written, produced, and directed three feature films: *Twin Falls Idaho*, *Jackpot*, and *Northfork*. Their filmmaking awards and citations include the John Cassavetes Award at the 2002 Independent Spirit Awards and a 2001 Seattle International Film Festival New American Cinema Award. Their films have collectively been nominated for five Independent Spirit Awards. They both live in the Los Angeles area.

Jonathan Sheldon was an associate producer on *Northfork* and was named head of development for the Polish Brothers' production company. He lives in Los Angeles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Manuel Jett:

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Margaret Head:

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Joshua Molina:

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Helen Williams:

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