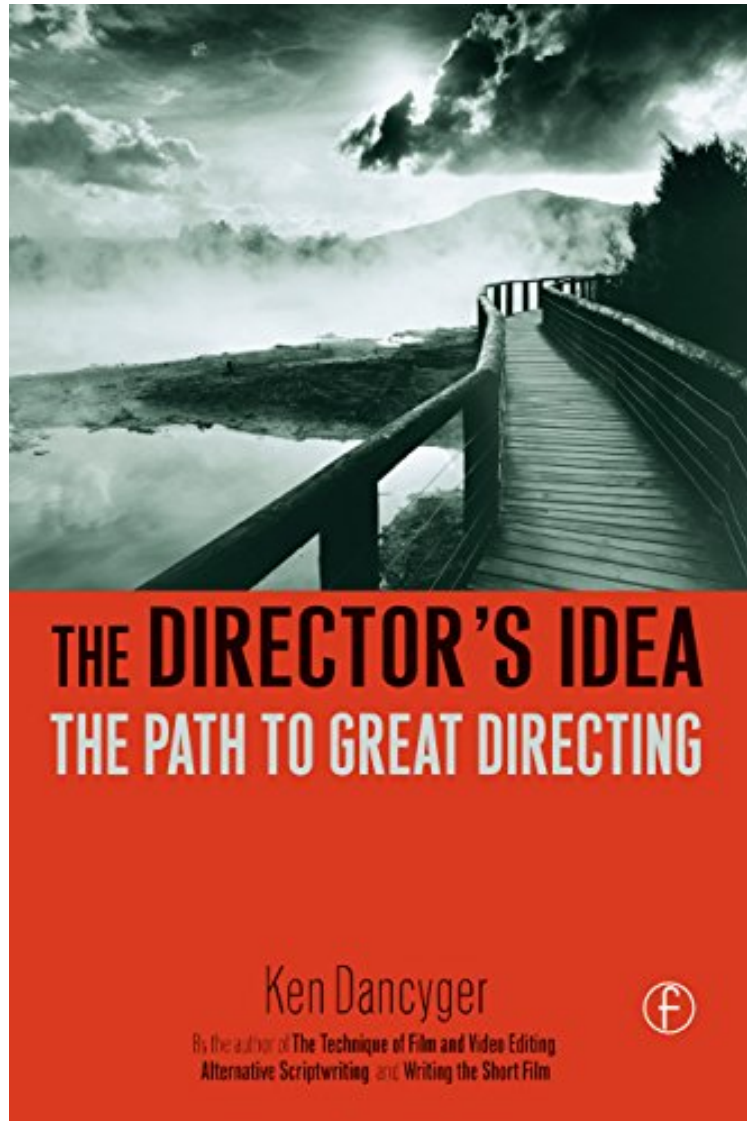


(Mobile library) The Director's Idea: The Path to Great Directing

The Director's Idea: The Path to Great Directing

Ken Dancyger

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Ken Dancyger : The Director's Idea: The Path to Great Directing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Director's Idea: The Path to Great Directing:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining--a good read for filmmakers, critics or fans By Matt RIF
you've ever wondered what exactly a director brings to a film, this book answers that question. The theory that the director is the auteur of a film is debatable, especially when he or she is working from a script or work by someone else. At the same time, a director certainly can give a film a unique point of view; this book explains that better than I am trying to do. Dancyger gives examples of one director bringing single a point of view--an idea--to all of his or her

works. One example is director Mary Harron, whose idea is "Celebrity and Banality," which affects the point of view of both *I Shot Andy Warhol*, which she drew from a true story, and *American Psycho*, from the Ellis book. Dancyger shows how this idea plays out in camera angles, and how the actors speak. The biggest strength of *The Director's Idea* is how Dancyger has gone through the works of notable directors and synthesized their works into the one Idea, and then shows how the Idea is applied. Anyone interested in film, or what a director really does will like this book. I loved it. - Matt R2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "I know everything about film. I've seen over 240 of them." By TC look for typos on (at least) pages 7 and 27 (McQ and *The Lost Crusade*, respectively), and also blatant misinformation about the film *Force 10 From Navarone* on page 101 (it is not "to Navarone" nor is it by Michael Anderson). Dancyger likes to fit directors into his 3 neat little categories: competent, good, and great. It's like the beginning of Dead Poets Society when Keating has the boys rip pages from their poetry books that describe a mathematical graph system for rating the quality of one poem versus another. I wanted to rip many pages out of this book. For students who are trying to learn, he chooses obscure and sometimes foreign films to prove a point; that point is then lost on his audience. He also makes a point of listing movies, as if to prove he has seen many films. He has some catching up to do- Dwight K. Schrute has seen over 240 of them. He imposes his opinion like it is fact. In the world of Dancyger, Terrence Malick is a "great" director, meaning up with the likes of Coppola, Scorsese, Woody Allen, Spielberg AKA the masters of this generation. Not to knock Malick, but he averages one film a decade, most of which barely blip the radar, garner a nomination or two for cinematography, but never win. Dancyger has never made anything of importance other than write books telling other people how to do it. Those who can't do, teach. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Some interesting stuff. Mostly shallow redundant filler. By ginsu The first 100 pages of this book are interesting. If you are looking at theme. And how filmic language can support theme. The author's insight into filmic technique and language is a bit obvious. But he has a nice way of looking at theme. But after that the book gets stuck in the mud and doesn't move forward. The author rehashes and fills up 200 more pages or so with about 5 more pages of new insight. I would hate to take a class from this guy. P.S. What you want to read instead is "Making Movies" by Sidney Lumet. If I compared the two books I would give Dancyger 1 star.

As a director, you must have a concept, a "director's idea", to shape your approach to the actors, the camera, and the script. With this clear idea your film will be deeper and more effective, and you will be able to differentiate--and therefore make the choice--between competent directing and great directing. Using case studies of famous directors as real-world examples of "director's ideas", the author has provided the theory and the practice to help directors immediately improve their work.