

THE MAKING OF RETURN OF THE JEDI : THE DEFINITIVE STORY BEHIND THE FILM PDF, EPUB, EBOOK



J.W. Rinzler | 372 pages | 01 Oct 2013 | AURUM PRESS | 9781781310762 | English | London, United Kingdom

The Making of Star Wars Return of the Jedi : J. W. Rinzler : : Blackwell's

This is the definitive behind-the-scenes look at the making of the final film in the original Star Wars trilogy. Rinzler uses his unprecedented access to the Lucasfilm Archives and its trove of never-before-published photos, design sketches, paintings, production notes, factoids, anecdot This is the

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Be the first to ask a question about The Making of Return of the Jedi. Lists with This Book. Community Reviews. Showing Average rating 4. Rating details. More filters. Sort order. Nov 16, James rated it really liked it. I've been reading this during the in between moments of the day for about two months. Breakfasts after the family left, during lunch, etc. I enjoyed the hell out of the first two books because they pulled open my childhood memories of these movies - all the obsession for the toys, behind the scenes photos, the magic of special effects, etc etc - and gave me a post-mortem on what the true experience of creating such a juggernaut was like. I've enjoyed them because the human element of discovery w I've been reading this during the in between moments of the day for about two months.

I've enjoyed them because the human element of discovery was very much alive in the story of making Star Wars and The Empire Strikes Back. Lucas's determination and the collective focus of his team were inspiring reads. And now the bittersweet ending of the making of trilogy is complete. Another good read, but not as charming as the first two, not as exciting.

Here the story isn't as immediate because the source material had changed. Rinzler relied more on contemporary interviews with people recollecting what the experience was like. For the previous books he had taped interviews from the time of the film's production and release. He also relied on the usual mish mosh of production reports, ledgers, and gathered manuscripts from other books and interviews. The business machine seemed to have overtaken the production at this point. The need to drive revenue to support the filmmaking and the people who worked for Lucasfilm in some fashion colors this book. There is the sense that money weighed so heavily on everything. That Lucas was just plain done with this beast he'd created. The dedication to the material remained as high and as stalwart as ever. The craftsmanship if anything had risen to new heights.

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And why not. But for now I'm struck by the sense that another minor chapter in my Star Wars experience is wrapped. As another is about to begin with the release of the Force Awakens soon enough. Reading this stuff I can't help but think back on what made the experience of these movies so unique, and how it just isn't available to anyone anymore. The waiting. The three year vacuum of new film to watch. The tension of waiting that long for what happens next and how Han Solo would be saved and how Luke would deal with his father.

What it all meant while I plowed into adolescence and junior high while listening over and over again to the soundtracks is hard to express. Everything was marketed just as aggressively back then as it is now - there just seems to be more of it now. More of everything: more press, more ads, more tie-ins for selling, more merchandise. It all feels like the stuff surrounding the story is more important than the story in the long run. The money that can be made. The careers that can be advanced. Which is the way of humans anyway, and has been for as long as man has walked this fast planet.

It's nice that we can always come back to the source, though. See the movie. Introduce it to our kids. And in this case my wife. Reboot the stuff that charged my love of storytelling and see how it might spark new ideas these days. At the end of the book, the legacy of the production is recounted in detail. Where everyone went, the movies they made, how Lucas moved on, and eventually made the prequels. In the end we're all finding work that satisfies us and if we're creatives we focus on the craft of what's made and how we make it as well as we can. It was a nice postscript to the production tale.

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The book is filled with beautifully reproduced photographs - designs, on-set, pretty much every aspect of the production - and Rinzler has done a great job, identifying most of the personnel captured in them. Very highly recommended. Nov 15, Keith rated it it was amazing Shelves: star-wars. This was a fitting end to a trilogy of extremely well made and informative books. There isn't a lot to say other than this book would fascinate Star

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Reading about his on-set behavior and his words during interviews, I confess I do not have a favorable impression of the man. He got along with some cast members especially Harrison Ford , but others disliked him, feeling he was too cold and distant. His insistence that Princess Leia was "a bitch" in EMPIRE and not "feminine enough" really rubbed me the wrong way too: even Carrie Fisher, who initially wanted Leia to have more vulnerable moments compared to the first two movies, felt Marquand and Lucas were softening the character way too much.

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city on Had Abbaddon.

If you have read the other Rinzler books, why stop now? Finish it and get the rest of the in almost to-the-day detailing of the production of the biggest hit of, with all the odd ins and outs and further transmogrification of Lucas into what he became: the mogul. And if for some reason you're skipping over the first two making of's and going to this Nov 01, Kate rated it really liked it Shelves: movies-tv , star-wars.

I've been a massive Star Wars fan most of my life, and when I was a kid, Return of the Jedi was my favorite movie. I thought it was such an exciting, satisfying ending to Luke's journey. As I grew older, The Empire Strikes Back a movie that scared the crap out of me at 7 years old eventually moved into the spot of 1 favorite and I believe many other fans share the same preference. However, I still have a huge amount of nostalgia and love for RotJ. Ordinarily, learning about the making of a I've been a massive Star Wars fan most of my life, and when I was a kid, Return of the Jedi was my favorite movie. Ordinarily, learning about the making of a beloved film just enhances the fun of the experience for me. However, in this case, it was a bittersweet and a tad disillusioning. I actually thought the early drafts of the script had some more interesting story beats than what ended up in the final film.

You really do get the sense that George Lucas wanted to have a "redo" of A New Hope especially with the second Death Star that more closely matched the vision in his head. Lucas has gotten a lot of flak over the years for his creative approach and much of it is justified, but I couldn't help but feel a little sorry for him as he became somewhat enslaved to complete the very universe he had created, costing him his marriage in the end. Add to that the very palpable stress of all who worked so hard and so creatively to bring the film to life for so many months. Everyone on board was just burned out by this point, and it does show in the final product.

Despite the fact that the story of RotJ's creation ends on a bittersweet note, I loved the anecdotes about filming, such as the Ewok actors having a blast and the humorous tale of stuntman injuries accruing during the Sarlacc scene. Mark Hamill can also always be relied upon for some hilarious soundbites. Overall, this "Making of Jan 04, Justin rated it it was amazing.

It also reproduces sections of previous drafts of the script giving the reader a glimpse at how the story transformed over time in the journey from page to screen. Reading through this book you begin to get a sense of just how big an undertaking the making of the movie was whilst getting a feeling for just why the film may seem slightly less than the sum of its parts. It picks up all threads from the previous two films and brings them together to create a rousing conclusion.

Jul 03, Andrew rated it really liked it Shelves: film-history , star-wars. This series was immensely enjoyable and informative, providing a lot of food for thought - and not just in useless nerd trivia. See my reviews of the other two books in this series. This appears to have been the most difficult film to make, with the late Richard Marquand receiving an ambiguous treatment as the film's director and David Prowse nearly getting sued for constantly leaking information about the plot.

The film was shot by Marquand, but was really put together over two years of post-pro This series was immensely enjoyable and informative, providing a lot of food for thought - and not just in useless nerd trivia. The film was shot by Marquand, but was really put together over two years of post-production by Lucas. You would think after going through this process twice, the making of this third film would have been much smoother. But no, it was easily tougher than even the first Star Wars film and took a greater toll on Lucas. What is it about a storyteller that makes them willing to endure so much and demand so much for the sake of the story's being told? Jun 13, Iain rated it really liked it. I got the feeling that everyone involved with the trilogy, especially George Lucas, was just glad to get this film made and out of the way. You may also like. About this product Product Information Just as Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi completed the most successful cinematic trilogy of its generation, perhaps of all time, this splendid thirtieth-anniversary tribute concludes New York Times bestselling author J.

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It's a rich, lovingly assembled book with enough treats to keep you occupied through a stay in the Sarlacc's belly. It's so packed with rare behind-the-scenes photos and gorgeous concept art that it would be worth buying for the visuals alone. But it's in the words that the real treasure lies. Even the most obsessive Star Wars fan will learn something here. The Force is certainly strong with this one. This book is in honour of the 30th anniversary and is the wonderful creation of bestselling author J. Rinzler was given access to the Lucasfilm archives and found the most fascinating revelations from behind the scenes of the film.

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'The Making of Return of the Jedi: The Definitive Story Behind the Film' book review

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The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi gives a spectacular subject its just due, with more than five hundred images and many, many new

interviews. Rinzler has gone through masses of production documents at Lucasfilm and interviewed tons of people, and come up with a portrait of Lucas struggling to find a fitting ending to his ambitious, heroic saga.

What I liked most about it is that even though this is clearly sanctioned by Lucasfilm, it is remarkably candid. I particularly found the transcripts of the story conferences fascinating, as Lucas and Lawrence Kasdan who do most of the talking, Howard Kazanjian the producer and Marquand build the script up, piece by piece, often following paths that lead nowhere an awful lot of design work went into the Imperial stronghold of Had Abaddon until they decided to put the Emperor on the Death Star, putting the story together. Moving beyond pre-production, the book charts the progress as sets go up in England designed by Norman Reynolds, Buttercup Valley in Yuma the barge sequences - which cost millions and yet appear in the film so briefly that Lucas now regrets not filming it all at Elstree and Crescent City in Northern California, where the crew got to take over a portion of logging forest.

For me, the most interesting part was post-production, as ILM moves into gear and the deadline to release day counts down. Ken Ralston space battles, Dennis Muren speeder bikes and the rancor and Richard Edlund everything else are quoted extensively and clearly convey the scope of work they were dealing with. The final part of the book deals with the release and reception of the film, as it gobbled up box office records and delighted the paying public, whilst drawing mixed notices from the critics. The ILM and Lucasfilm group from the early 80s, was probably the equivalent of the Corman outfit in the 60s and 70s. The book is filled with beautifully reproduced photographs - designs, on-set, pretty much every aspect of the production - and Rinzler has done a great job, identifying most of the personnel captured in them.

Very highly recommended. Nov 15, Keith rated it it was amazing Shelves: star-wars. This was a fitting end to a trilogy of extremely well made and informative books. There isn't a lot to say other than this book would fascinate Star Wars fans and also fans of cinema. Don't expect to read it in a weekend though. Random things I remember that interested me: It was sad reading about how flippantly the Boba Fett death was decided. This was one of the major mistakes of the third film and it didn't seem like they took it too seriously at the time.

Lucas continued his extreme dislike of This was a fitting end to a trilogy of extremely well made and informative books. Lucas continued his extreme dislike of Nixon, who was his inspiration for the Emperor. Maybe the most interesting thing for me as an extreme Star Wars fan who reads all the books and play all the games is that, even at this late stage in the original trilogy, Lucas still had an extremely loose grip on what the Force was. He said that everybody can use the Force. It is like yoga. If you practice, you'll get good at it. The fat lady in Jabba's palace was described as the daughter of Jabba.

Harrison Ford seemed like a diva in this one and would probably be irritating to work with. Carrie Fisher still sounds like a complete diva and a pain to work with. She complained about not enough lines, so they gave her more. She said they were too feminine. They let her get in on the action scenes, she doesn't like doing action scenes. It sounds like she was kind of a jerk to people and wouldn't sign autographs for fans. There were nice comments about everyone but her. I did laugh at her quote where she called the Sarlacc a sand vagina.

C-3PO had a really bad cold while he filmed the scene where he is telling the Star Wars story to the Ewoks. It will definitely change how I watch that scene knowing that Daniels couldn't wipe his nose so his face was covered with mucus. The midgets that acted as Ewoks were totally crazy. Apparently they would all have sex with each other and be groping the people doing their costumes. It was sad that they had to have people watch them in Tunisia because the people there think that being a midget means you are cursed, so they had to make sure nothing happened to them.

It was also extremely depressing to read the epilogue describing how Lucas recently sold everything to Disney and Kathleen Kennedy was taking over. Sadly, that combination has almost completely destroyed the magic of Star Wars the only thing they've put out that wasn't trash has been Rogue One. The Mandalorian is ok. I would've greatly preferred Lucas let Star Wars die with dignity than let Disney destroy the franchise with some of the worst writing I've ever scene and SJW messaging.

Like J. Rinzler's other behind-the-scenes books about making the original Star Wars films, this one gives a wealth of detail I wasn't aware of about the pre-production, production, and post-production of Return of the Jedi. What is impressive is that although this book is authorized and therefore blessed by George Lucas, it still presents some of the many narrative, creative, and personal problems that plagued Jedi. Lucas knowingly re-used many plot points from the first Star Wars such as the Like J. Lucas knowingly re-used many plot points from the first Star Wars such as the Death Star because the image of a forest battle between furry aliens and mechanized Imperial troops was one he'd wanted to do but couldn't film before.

After his struggles with independent-minded director Irvin Kershner on The Empire Strikes Back, Lucas selected a director, Richard Marquand, who had no experience with big-budget special-effects films but was willing to be told what to do by Lucas, the executive producer. Lucas also kept changing the script and adding special effects shots late in production, forcing his team to work in two and sometimes three shifts around the clock to get it all done on time. On top of all this, Lucas was going through a divorce but didn't tell any of his associates or employees about it until after the film was done.

There is no question that Jedi is the most technologically astonishing of the original trilogy of films. Some shots had well over different visual elements in them. But in many ways, this was a troubled film and it is, I believe, generally acknowledged as the weakest of the three. This book, with its enhanced audio and video clips of interviews and unused movie takes, provides essential context for understanding how this film turned out the way it did. May 13, Emilie rated it it was amazing. These "making of" books are fascinating reading for both Star Wars diehards and movie nerds. I did not expect the tome on ROTJ's production to be so stressful though: the behind the scenes stories are infused with a sense of weariness, like everyone just wanted to get it over with and move beyond Star Wars. Hostility even creeps into meetings, such as the arguments between George Lucas and the other writers over the Ewoks and the second Death Star attest.

Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, and Carrie Fisher were all displeased with different elements of the final script. ILM staff were exhausted by the sheer amount of effects and the problems that came with making them as perfect as they could get it. I hadn't read much on Richard Marquand the

director before cracking this book open-- he's often described as essentially having been a puppet for George Lucas, someone with inadequate experience on big blockbusters who would do what Lucas wanted without severe questioning and on time.

Reading about his on-set behavior and his words during interviews, I confess I do not have a favorable impression of the man. He got along with some cast members especially Harrison Ford, but others disliked him, feeling he was too cold and distant. His insistence that Princess Leia was "a bitch" in *EMPIRE* and not "feminine enough" really rubbed me the wrong way too: even Carrie Fisher, who initially wanted Leia to have more vulnerable moments compared to the first two movies, felt Marquand and Lucas were softening the character way too much.

And the way she had to deal with cameramen oogling her or Hamill's stunt double hitting on her when in the slave bikini was just I felt so bad for her. Still, the ending of the book describes the film's triumphant success. Despite mixed critical reactions, the fans mostly ate it up. I loved reading about euphoric crowds on opening day. I wish I could have been there, seeing the movie fresh like that with an enthusiastic crowd. Overall, this was a good read, even if stressful. My only problem is that, unlike the first two books in this series, the author interjects his personal views of the movie into the text.

I much prefer when making of books or biographies of creative people in general refrain from the author's criticisms of the work in question. Even though I agree with the author's views on *ROTJ*, it felt so out of keeping with his usual objective tone. Feb 22, Jack Herbert Christal Gattarella rated it it was amazing Shelves: bio, made-into-movies. The actor's job is exactly the same: Dress up and pretend. I'm glad it brought itself to a natural conclusion. But three is enough for me. I was glad to see that costume for the last time. I don't think it had a very successful ending, with that Teddy Bear picnic. It needs to be small scale. Originally we'd also see the destruction of Emperors city on Had Abbaddon. If you have read the other Rinzler books, why stop now?

Finish it and get the rest of the in almost to-the-day detailing of the production of the biggest hit of, with all the odd ins and outs and further transmutation of Lucas into what he became: the mogul. And if for some reason you're skipping over the first two making of's and going to this Nov 01, Kate rated it really liked it Shelves: movies-tv, star-wars. I've been a massive Star Wars fan most of my life, and when I was a kid, *Return of the Jedi* was my favorite movie. I thought it was such an exciting, satisfying ending to Luke's journey. As I grew older, *The Empire Strikes Back* a movie that scared the crap out of me at 7 years old eventually moved into the spot of 1 favorite and I believe many other fans share the same preference. However, I still have a huge amount of nostalgia and love for *RotJ*. Ordinarily, learning about the making of a I've been a massive Star Wars fan most of my life, and when I was a kid, *Return of the Jedi* was my favorite movie.

Ordinarily, learning about the making of a beloved film just enhances the fun of the experience for me. However, in this case, it was a bittersweet and a tad disillusioning. I actually thought the early drafts of the script had some more interesting story beats than what ended up in the final film. You really do get the sense that George Lucas wanted to have a "redo" of *A New Hope* especially with the second Death Star that more closely matched the vision in his head. Lucas has gotten a lot of flak over the years for his creative approach and much of it is justified, but I couldn't help but feel a little sorry for him as he became somewhat enslaved to complete the very universe he had created, costing him his marriage in the end.

Add to that the very palpable stress of all who worked so hard and so creatively to bring the film to life for so many months. Everyone on board was just burned out by this point, and it does show in the final product. Despite the fact that the story of *RotJ*'s creation ends on a bittersweet note, I loved the anecdotes about filming, such as the Ewok actors having a blast and the humorous tale of stuntman injuries accruing during the Sarlacc scene. Mark Hamill can also always be relied upon for some hilarious soundbites. Overall, this "Making of Jan 04, Justin rated it it was amazing. It also reproduces sections of previous drafts of the script giving the reader a glimpse at how the story transformed over time in the journey from page to screen.

Reading through this book you begin to get a sense of just how big an undertaking the making of the movie was whilst getting a feeling for just why the film may seem slightly less than the sum of its parts. It picks up all threads from the previous two films and brings them together to create a rousing conclusion. Jul 03, Andrew rated it really liked it Shelves: film-history, star-wars. This series was immensely enjoyable and informative, providing a lot of food for thought - and not just in useless nerd trivia. See my reviews of the other two books in this series. This appears to have been the most difficult film to make, with the late Richard Marquand receiving an ambiguous treatment as the film's director and David Prowse nearly getting sued for constantly leaking information about the plot. The film was shot by Marquand, but was really put together over two years of post-pro This series was immensely enjoyable and informative, providing a lot of food for thought - and not just in useless nerd trivia.

The film was shot by Marquand, but was really put together over two years of post-production by Lucas. You would think after going through this process twice, the making of this third film would have been much smoother. But no, it was easily tougher than even the first Star Wars film and took a greater toll on Lucas. What is it about a storyteller that makes them willing to endure so much and demand so much for the sake of the story's being told? Jun 13, Iain rated it really liked it. I got the feeling that everyone involved with the trilogy, especially George Lucas, was just glad to get this film made and out of the way. This book suffers slightly from having fewer direct sources to draw from, with most of the quotes coming from interviews done after the production was over.

It's still very enjoyable if you're a Star Wars fan and interested in movie-making though. Circle complete Mr. Rinzler has created his own magic with these books. I can't write enough about the ins and outs of the info provided through all facets of production. Here's hoping for a prequel set. Jun 20, Scott MacBurnie rated it it was amazing. Like the films that preceded them, this "third chapter" in the "Making of Unlike the first two installments, this one depends a great deal more upon later recollections of cast and crew, and as such, it sometimes feels as though there has been a bit of self-censorship in hindsight, at play. As such, it lacks some of the immediacy of the first two boo Like the films that preceded them, this "third chapter" in the "Making of As such, it lacks some of the immediacy of the first two books, and it definitely is missing the "boots on the ground" sensation that propelled the first two in this series.

Nevertheless, and as was the case with the prior volumes, there is not a lot of sugar-coating here, and the agony as well as the increasing sense that - by now in terms of the film-making everyone involved was coming to the ends of their creative ropes - after having spent essentially 6 to 10

years at the crux of a cultural maelstrom. To a point, it is sometimes alarming to think or speculate upon just how fraught with turmoil the production was, and how close to proverbial disaster it sometimes seemed to skirt. About this product. You may also like. About this product Product Information Just as Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi completed the most successful cinematic trilogy of its generation, perhaps of all time, this splendid thirtieth-anniversary tribute concludes New York Times bestselling author J.

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