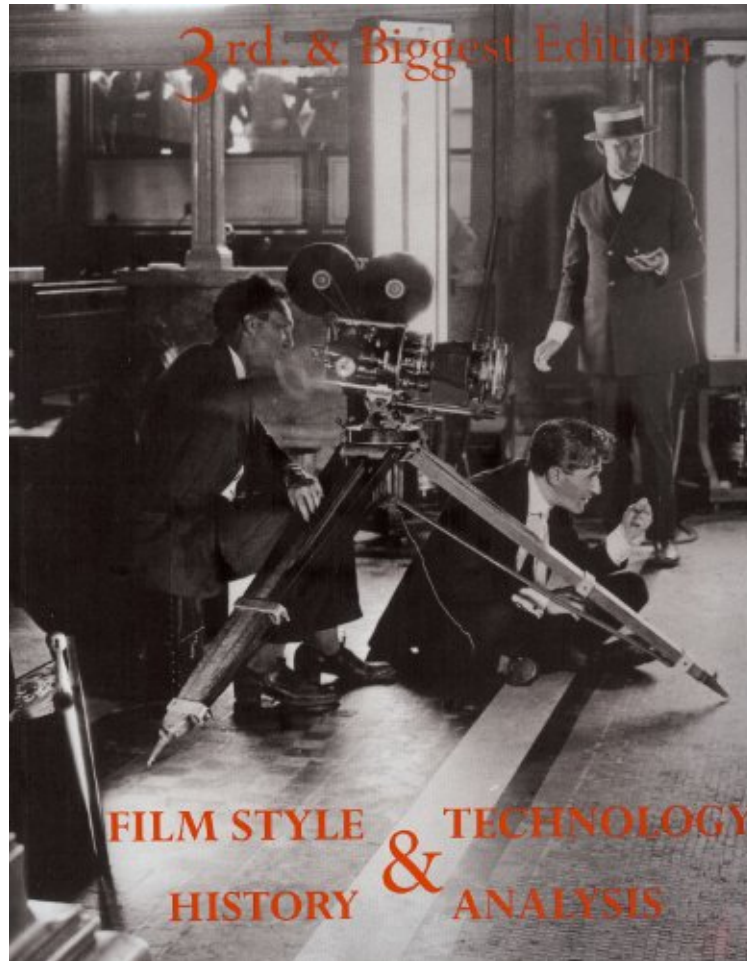


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Film Style and Technology: History and Analysis

Barry Salt

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Barry Salt : Film Style and Technology: History and Analysis before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Film Style and Technology: History and Analysis:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. EssentialBy lsnewtonFor those who are interested in the evolution of technology in motion picture, this is the right book. Complete and essential.15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Film history about film making, not about the people who made themBy Scott W. LarsonDo you ever look at old movies and wonder how they were shot back then compared to how they're shot now? This book will take you on a decade-by-decade journey on how film technology and techniques developed through cleverness, insight and occasional desperation (i.e. early color systems!) by the people who made them.Barry Salt researched magazine articles and manufacturer literature to chronicle how motion picture technology evolved through the decades while watching the films created by this new technology to see how they changed. There is far less emphasis on the famous people involved in film making and more emphasis on the tools and techniques they developed and used. The

collection of information of even the oldest cameras, lenses, lights and film stocks is incredible. Lighting techniques are clearly shown with example frames from films -- we use the shadows to trace back to the light sources. Nothing is too trivial for Salt to tell us about if he feels it left a historical impression. That information alone would have made a useful text, but Salt also chronicles the evolution of acting techniques, story development, camera movement, editing, and nearly everything else that could affect a film. Even continuity, now an essential part of film making, gets a section when it finally appears as a sign of good workmanship! There are few names attributed to these developments (no, D.W. Griffith did not invent them all) but are described more as trends in the industry as film makers watched other films and discovered what was possible with this new popular media. Salt's opinions on films may offend some. If you are a fan of Expressionism, you'll be angered at his amusing description of it as a strange and pointless artistic movement. If you're interested in newer movies, you'll find the sections on modern film making too short. Salt has little good to say about modern films and he feels that directors other than Robert Altman are generally trend-following hacks. In fact the silent era alone fills more than half the book because surprising number of modern techniques were developed before films even had sound.

Film Style and Technology is a history of film style and its relationship to film technology. It also includes a theory of film analysis and demonstrates this theory using the films of Max Ophuls.

About the Author Barry Salt has a PhD in theoretical physics, and has worked as a film cameraman, among other things. He has researched film history and film analysis for the last forty years. He teaches filmmaking at the London Film School.