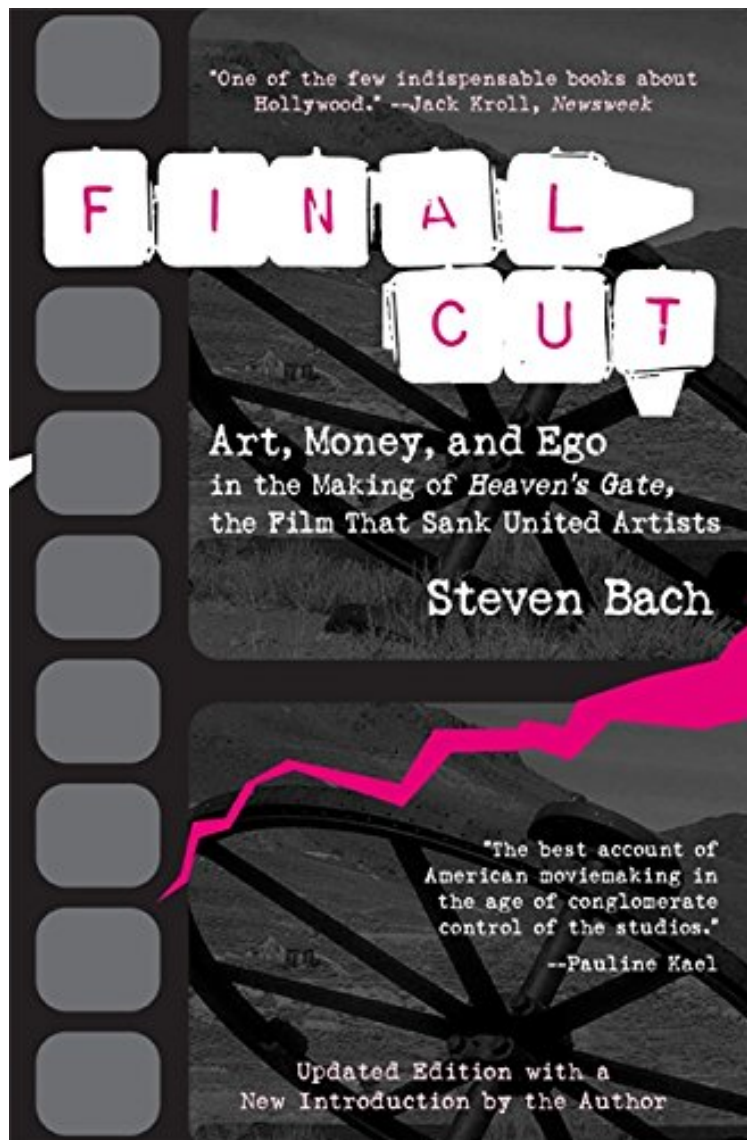


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## Final Cut: Art, Money, and Ego in the Making of Heaven's Gate, the Film that Sank United Artists

Steven Bach

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Steven Bach : Final Cut: Art, Money, and Ego in the Making of Heaven's Gate, the Film that Sank United Artists before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Final Cut: Art, Money, and Ego in the Making of Heaven's Gate, the Film that Sank United Artists:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Gripping story of a major film disaster. Just wish it had pictures in

the book. By Doy Virginia Great book on the inside story of one of the great movie disasters of all time. I was 25 when the Heaven's Gate debacle occurred, and was one of those who was fortunate enough to have seen the movie during its brief national theater run. I recently watched it again on Blu-Ray. And despite attempts of some to "re-habilitate" this film, it still remains a boring and ponderous mess. The only quibble I have with Bach's book is that there are no pictures. Having pictures of the people involved with this film, and of the film itself, would have added tremendously to my enjoyment of this book. In 2005, TLC network made a 90 minute documentary on the subject matter in this book, entitled "Final Cut: The Making and Unmaking of Heaven's Gate". There are extensive interviews with Bach, David Field, and numerous others involved with the making of the film (but not Cimino). Unfortunately, this great documentary film isn't available on DVD, but you can catch it on YouTube. I advise watching the documentary first and then reading the book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. When Art Meets Business!! By Johnny G Must read for anyone interested in film making and the business of distribution. While art is important to some this still is a business that needs "product." Self indulgence too often results in a product that no one wants except the individual who indulged himself. This is an inside baseball book that the late Mr. Bach wrote with honesty and passion.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ego, Dollars, and Art By olingerstories Steven Bach's FINAL CUT about Michael Cimino's ego run amok and the consequent dismantling of United Artists has long been considered the great insider's tale of Hollywood's actual doings and follies. For both Bach and the reader, it is easy to see the perfect storm that surrounds giving Cimino free reign on "Heaven's Gate." Coming off of an Oscar for the "Deer Hunter," Cimino gets whatever he wants, does whatever he wants, and basically acts like the most conceited jerk of all time. No one seems to disagree with assessment. The conflicting opinions exist on what Bach and others could have done as management. Their every decision ends up wrong and United Artists uses the disaster to sell itself off to MGM, for a profit no less.

Heaven's Gate is probably the most discussed, least seen film in modern movie history. Its notoriety is so great that its title has become a generic term for disaster, for ego run rampant, for epic mismanagement, for wanton extravagance. It was also the film that brought down one of Hollywood's major studios United Artists, the company founded in 1919 by Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, D. W. Griffith, and Charlie Chaplin. Steven Bach was senior vice president and head of worldwide production for United Artists at the time of the filming of Heaven's Gate, and apart from the director and producer, the only person to witness the film's evolution from beginning to end. Combining wit, extraordinary anecdotes, and historical perspective, he has produced a landmark book on Hollywood and its people, and in so doing, tells a story of human absurdity that would have made Chaplin proud.

From The New Yorker The best account of American moviemaking in the age of conglomerate control of the studios. "The best account of American moviemaking in the age of conglomerate control of the studios." Pauline Kael, The New Yorker "A landmark book on movies must reading!" Kirkus s "A compulsively readable account of adventures in the film trade. An intimate view of what goes on in the corridors of Hollywood power distinguished by its awesome objectivity." David Brown, The Zanuck Brown Co. "Buffs will love this one inside and fascinating looks at Woody Allen, Francis Ford Coppola, Peter Sellers, writer William Goldman, Dino De Laurentiis, Truman Capote, Martin Scorsese, et al." Newsday "A riveting, witty and essentially heartbreaking chronicle of a catastrophe" Peter Bogdanovich, director of The Last Picture Show "One of the few indispensable books about Hollywood." Jack Kroll, Newsweek