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# The Making Of Star Wars: The Definitive Story Behind The Original Film



## Synopsis

After the 1973 success of *American Graffiti*, filmmaker George Lucas made the fateful decision to pursue a longtime dream project: a space fantasy movie unlike any ever produced. Lucas envisioned a swashbuckling SF saga inspired by the *Flash Gordon* serials classic American westerns, the epic cinema of Japanese auteur Akira Kurosawa, and mythological heroes. Its original title: *The Star Wars*. The rest is history, and how it was made is a story as entertaining and exciting as the movie that has enthralled millions for thirty years—“a story that has never been told as it was meant to be. Until now. Using his unprecedented access to the Lucasfilm Archives and its trove of never-before-published material—interviews, photos, production notes, factoids, and anecdotes, Star Wars scholar J. W. Rinzler hurtles readers back in time for a one-of-a-kind behind-the-scenes look at the nearly decade-long quest of George Lucas and his key collaborators to make the little movie that became a phenomenon. For the first time, it’s all here: the evolution of the now-classic story and characters—including “Anakin Starkiller” and a huge green-skinned monster with no nose and large gills—named Han Solo—excerpts from George Lucas’ numerous, ever-morphing script drafts—the birth of Industrial Light & Magic, the special-effects company that revolutionized Hollywood filmmaking—the studio-hopping and budget battles that nearly scuttled the entire project—the director’s early casting saga, which might have led to a film spoken mostly in Japanese—including the intensive auditions that won the cast members their roles and made them legends—the grueling, nearly catastrophic location shoot in Tunisia and the subsequent breakneck dash at Elstree Studios in London—the who’s who of young film rebels who pitched in to help—including Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg, and Brian DePalma. But perhaps most exciting, and rarest of all, are the interviews conducted before and during production and immediately after the release of *Star Wars*—“in which George Lucas, Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Sir Alec Guinness, Anthony Daniels, composer John Williams, effects masters Dennis Muren, Richard Edlund, and John Dykstra, Phil Tippett, Rick Baker, legendary production designer John Barry, and a host of others share their fascinating tales from the trenches and candid opinions of the film that would ultimately change their lives. No matter how you view the spectrum of this thirty-year phenomenon, *The Making of Star Wars* stands as a crucial document—“rich in fascination and revelation—“of a genuine cinematic and cultural touchstone.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A book like this simply blows everything else out of the water...For Star Wars fans, this truly will be the Holy Grail, and even obsessives who think they know everything about the movie should prepare to be astounded. As a 30th anniversary tribute, this could not be bettered" Film Review

"Majestic...truly indispensable" Total Film "terrific behind-the-scenes study...a detailed, sensible but compelling account of the film's creation, minus the hype...Combining the access of an authorised account with the edge of great storytelling, the making of a 30 year-old movie has never felt more alive" Empire --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

J. W. Rinzler, former executive editor at Lucasfilm Ltd., is the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Making of Star Wars* and London Times bestseller *The Complete Making of Indiana Jones*, as well as the #1 NY Times Bestselling graphic novel, adapted from George Lucas's original rough draft, "The Star Wars." He also directed the animated short "Riddle of the Black Cat." He lives on the northern California coast. Follow him on Twitter @jwrinzler or visit his website: [jwrinzler.com](http://jwrinzler.com).

The original Star Wars is my favorite movie of all time. I watched it countless times, have it memorized, and have watched every possible documentary available on how it got made. So with all that in mind, I come across this book which had even more production photos I've never seen before, along with countless stories from all the key production people, plus details down to what order the scenes were shot, etc. There was enough detail to impress even this obsessed fan and I highly recommend this book. The only disappointment was that the extra media content did not work

on my non-Kindle tablet, so be aware of that should you buy the digital copy.

This is a great book, but I'm mystified as to why this page says it includes audio and video when those add ons do NOT work using the Kindle app. Since this is a Kindle book, it's mind boggling that they are incapable of making the audio and video clips work using their own software. Incredibly dumb. Otherwise, the book itself is well worth a read. Two stars off for the idiotic decision made by whoever decides these things to disable the add ons.

The actual text is great, loved it, better than I expected. However, one of the main reasons I bought this was for the special features which include video/interviews. There was nothing saying that this content was not available to Android users. So I downloaded the app to my pc, and same thing, "content not available". I'd have given 5 stars if all the content I PAID FOR was actually available...So, I 'll say it here, separately. **BUYER BEWARE, SPECIAL CONTENT NOT AVAILABLE ON ADROID/PC**

I am quite impressed with the Kindle version of this publication. After examining the files on my kindle paperwhite, it seems to be occupying a bit under 100 MB. I have read some of the text itself, and so far have been enjoying its revelations on the production and shooting of the film. I have been a lifelong fan of the original trilogy and this window into its making is invaluable, particularly since so much of it was previously unavailable. The images, including artist sketches/paintings, storyboards, and actual production photographs are comprehensive and I was amazed that it was all able to fit into the 100 MB it is taking up in my kindle's memory. I know that this enhanced edition is supposed to include audio and video that I cannot view on my monochrome kindle, but at least they are not occupying my memory space. I will try to find a compatible platform to view them at some point, but for now I am quite satisfied with this version for the price. It is quite a deal considering the MSRP of the print edition. Chances are, I will end up owning the hardcover as well, but am using this copy to preview it and appreciate its content. Highly recommend for any Star Wars fan!

Never read the coffee table book, but the trade-offs with the Kindle version made it the better option. Devices read on: \* iPad (retina) \* Nexus 7 (2013) \* iPhone 5C  
Con: \* The pictures \* Still pretty, and many are illuminating, but by default they're never full page -- always a ton of white space around 1-3 zoomable pictures -- so you lose the ease of flipping through pages and just landing on something pretty  
\* Audio and Video only playable on some devices  
\* If you have an iPad or Kindle

Fire, you're golden. Videos and audio work on those devices, and they're amazing. Own a Nexus 7, you're SoL. Nothing plays, which is too bad considering the Nexus 7 was my favorite device for actually reading the book. Pro:<sup>\*</sup> Everything else: Great detail without going dull. Lifelong Star Wars fan, so getting this much narrative of the production itself is like nothing I've ever seen. Being able to actually read this thing anywhere is great. I don't see how I would have consumed the coffee table edition, outside of the occasional bored skim. One of my all-time best Kindle purchases.

Amazing, detailed, exhaustive, informative...none of these would accurately describe the quality of this effort. J.W. Rinzler's book on the original "Star Wars" film (a.k.a. "Episode IV - A New Hope") is completely insane, in the best way. For any fan of film history, and especially lovers of all things Force-related, this book is essential for your collection. From the first ideas George Lucas had while making "THX" and "American Graffiti", all the way to the original 1977 release and the movie's enduring cultural impact...I honestly can't imagine a better source of information and inspiration. I'll definitely be grabbing Mr. Rinzler's books on "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi".

A fascinating read for any Star Wars fan that wants to learn everything about the production of the first film. Rinzler's coverage is very in-depth and explores the years before preproduction even started, as well as the actual development and production of the film. His description of the film's release and the unprecedented reception is exhilarating, and effectively captures some of that same excitement that moviegoers must have felt as the film first swept the nation. As with Rinzler's followup "Making of" books for Empire and Jedi, The Making of Star Wars' biggest fault is that it focuses too much on the rough drafts of the script. Maybe it's just me, but I don't need to hear the story from start to end five times, even with revisions. Rinzler made the rather silly decision to provide a bullet-point list of plot elements that were retained for the final film after each draft, which is subjective, annoying, and pointless. He wisely decided not to repeat this in the later books.

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