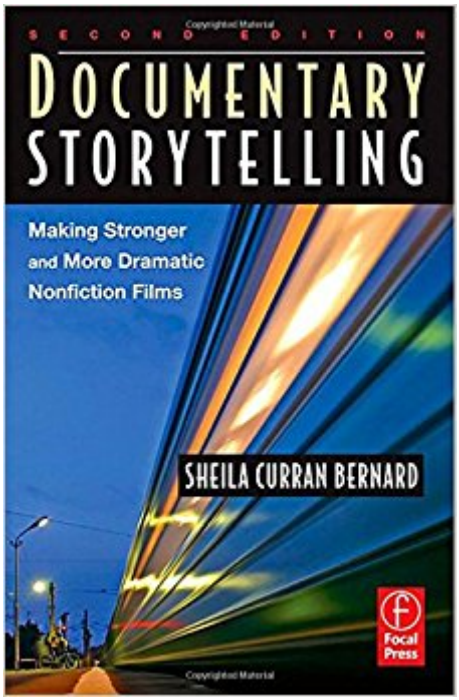
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Documentary Storytelling: Making Stronger And More Dramatic Nonfiction Films



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Synopsis

Documentary Storytelling offers a unique in-depth look at story and structure as applied not to Hollywood fiction, but to films and videos based on factual material and the drama of real life. With the growing popularity of documentaries in today's global media marketplace, demand for powerful and memorable storytelling has never been greater. This practical guide offers advice for every stage of production, from research and proposal writing to shooting and editing, and applies it to diverse subjects and film styles, from vÃƒÂ©ritÃƒÂ© and personal narrative to archival histories and more. Filled with real-world examples drawn from the author's career and the experiences of some of today's top documentarians, Documentary Storytelling includes special interview chapters with Ric Burns, Jon Else, Nick Fraser, Susan Froemke, Sam Pollard, Onyekachi Wambu and other film professionals. This second edition has been brought up to date with a more international focus, a look at lower-budget independent filmmaking, and consideration of newer films including Super Size Me, Murderball, So Much So Fast, and When the Levees Broke.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Brilliant and effective...Documentary Storytelling guides readers through nearly every phase of creating a documentary: structuring, working up a proposal, and, of course, shooting and editing" - Backstage"Sheila Curran Bernard's ability to dissect a wide range of narrative apporaches and explore the elements that make dramatic stories so compelling make this guide invaluable for documentary filmmakers as well as anyone who uses information and evidence to portray real

events." -Dr. Pennee Bender, Media Director, Center for Media and Learning, City University of New York, The Graduate Center."With all the buzz over blockbuster docs, Focal Press serves up a perfectly timed winner in a much-neglected area. True to the nature of the beast, the book is more about filmmaking as a whole, and how and where storytelling weaves into the overall process".-Bruce Mckenna, Canadian Screenwriter (Writers Guild of Canada)"Bernard is keenly aware of the power of persuasive images, and her insistence on complexity and integrity is a consistant theme throughout the book."- Alyssa Worsham, The Independent (Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers)"With the availability of high-quality affordable cameras and editing equipment, documentary filmmakers today enjoy a freedom in shaping their films that their counterparts a decade ago could't have imaged. As the new aesthetic is shaped, Sheila Curran Bernard's brilliant and effective Documentary Storytelling, Second Edition: Making Stronger and More Dramatic Nonfiction films aims to guide the Erroll Morrises of tomorrow with great advice and practical knowledge that every documentatian would benefit from."-Backstage March 22, 2007

Sheila Curran Bernard is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker and the author of Documentary Storytelling, a best selling guide to story and structure in nonfiction filmmaking, and , a guide to using archival footage and material in films. Her archival film credits include the series Eyes on the Prize, I'll Make Me a World, This Far By Faith, America's War on Poverty, and School, for which she also co-wrote the companion book. She has taught at Princeton University and Westbrook College and recently joined the faculty of the University at Albany, State University of New York.

I am reading this book now for the 3rd time and am getting more and more from it. Now that I am more seriously attacking my story telling skills in the middle of a documentary film, Bernard nails exactly what I want to know. The interviews from legends like Jon Else and so many others bring a personal encouragement like I've just attended a seminar with a master. This is a must to develop your storytelling skills in filmmaking.

This book does emphasize the overwhelming importance of the story for the documentary. Without a dramatic story, without heroes and villains, your documentary will be dull and not well received. The story will make up for most technical flaws. If for no other reason this book is well worth reading. I can't remember any thing else about it

I can’t imagine a better book for the beginning documentarian. The author grasps and teaches that video is only a medium and quality depends on the content which must tell a story. So many people seem to think they just need to point their camera, watch exposure and white balance, etc. and they can edit out a good documentary, forgetting that it all hinges on having a good story and telling it well.

Great book. I am just getting started as a documentary filmmaker but I am a professional photographer. I find this book to be extremely well-written and love the thorough perspective.

DOES NOT OPEN ON CLASSIC KINDLE

This is probably the best book I have read concerning the art of documentary story "showing." Visual stories, documentary or narrative, should be shown and this book will teach how its done. Documentary needn’t be boring, uneventful, or strictly dictatorial. Professionals and novices’ alike can benefit from this book.

A reference book that can be useful for any kind of storytelling. As good for beginners as for professionals to remind you that there is rules to follow to tell story but that it’s your responsibility to follow them or to bend them.

Great interesting read

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