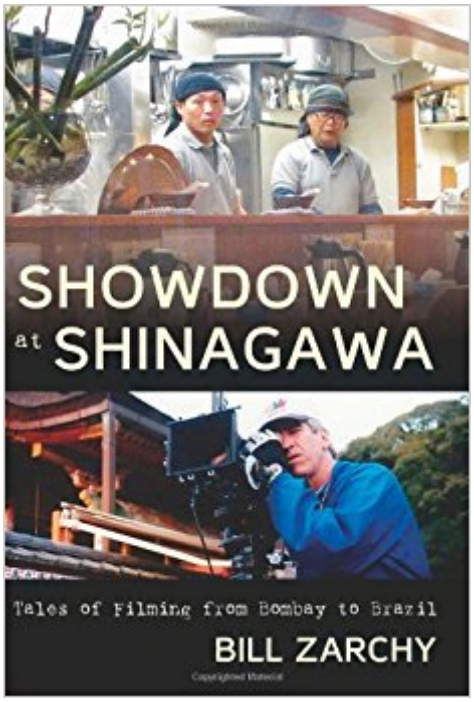
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Showdown At Shinagawa: Tales Of Filming From Bombay To Brazil



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Synopsis

Honored as Commended Winner in Non-Fiction, 2014 Self-Publishing Review Awards.Part armchair travel book, part personal memoir, Bill Zarchy’s Showdown at Shinagawa: Tales of Filming from Bombay to Brazil takes readers inside the international adventures of working film crews making a living in the fascinating, unpredictable, sometimes dark, often comical world of the film and video business.Ã Â Showdown features 18 tales (from Japan, India, China, Uganda, the Philippines, New Zealand, France, Singapore, England, Taiwan, Mexico and Brazil) and 21 pages of color photos, the rich experiences of a director of photography whose assignments have taken him to 30 countries and 40 states. Zarchy brings us along for the ride on a darkly funny bus trip down the deadly Bombay-Pune Road in "Wrecks and Pissers," drags us through the disorienting milieu of Singapore’s high-tech cleanrooms in "No Worry, Chicken Curry," faces a surreal Tokyo bowling-for-budget match in the title story "Showdown at Shinagawa," and shares the challenge of filming former President Clinton while dealing with family tragedy in "Dog Years." And so on, across six continents, over three decades of his work.Ã Â Sometimes he deals with famous people-Clinton, Steve Jobs, and Morgan Freeman-more often with ordinary folks. Despite the numbing jetlag, cultural disorientation, frustration with clients, and unpredictable weather that are an inevitable part of international film shoots, Zarchy maintains his sense of humor and the ridiculous, and a strong belief in the warmth of people all over the world.Zarchy’s first filming trip abroad was a shoot for a Hong Kong-based tour company that took him to eight countries in Asia in 1975. Two years later, he accompanied the band Fleetwood Mac through Japan and Hawaii. Since then, he has shot projects of all kinds all over the world. In the course of traveling and working with clients and crew people from everywhere, he has developed a fine ear for dialogue, a witty style of storytelling, and a keen insight into the dissonance that often occurs when people in other countries emulate the style and outer trappings of American society, within the context of their own cultures.Showdown at Shinagawa is more than a travel memoir. It is also a book about the film and video industry, a workaday account of doing business in a myriad of locations across the U.S. and around the world. Where many travel narratives detail searches for interesting encounters, environments, and experiences, Showdown at Shinagawa tells of going places with an agenda--a job to do, a crew to hire, a production to shoot. Unlike tourists visiting to see the sights or seek enlightenment, the author and his colleagues deal with the locals in substantive ways, and the results are often poignant, puzzling, or comical--sometimes all three at once.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Funny, sweet, and wise...deeply moving human interest stories...the doctor in India who doesn't charge for treating people via telemedicine, the young man in England with cystic fibrosis who has a new lease on life thanks to a portable nebulizer, and the medical student in Uganda who is tirelessly working to help his people."--Foreword Clarion Reviews"The author recalls his near 'big break'...as a novice director doing preproduction in the Philippines for a low-budget Japanese sci-fi film...Thumbs up for this filmmaker's collection of postcards from the edge."--Kirkus Reviews Ã Â "'Shanghai Lunch' is a funny little vignette about Westerners trying Chinese delicacies. 'The Big Break: Malaise in Manila' is a great little humor piece for those of you just dying to know how a B-movie gets made."--IndieReader"While the book bills itself most as being about the experience of foreign filmmaking, it really pulls together as a narrative about humanity in general in a very intriguing and heartwarming way, even when talking about the worst sides of a production or the lowest moments life can offer."--Self-Publishing Review Ã Â "Many of the stories found ways to brighten my day, tug at my heartstrings, or help me understand my fellow humans a bit more."--BookIdeas.com"A common theme...[is] the camaraderie he has found on movie sets. Be it with his regular collaborators or just one-time-only encounters, he has found the moving image to be a pretty darned good universal language."--Cleveland Movie Blog Ã Â "The book introduces us to wonderful online viewing where Zarchy's remarkable photographic talents are on display."--BookReview.com"Well-written, sharp, often quite charming...His stories revolve not around technical or logistical problems, but miscommunication, cultural disparities, and the all-too-common human foible of not putting yourself in the shoes of others."--San Francisco Book Review"Zarchy's writing style is superb, part memoir while providing intimate insight into the experiences of international film and video professionals. Revealing color photos capture the right moment. The book provides deep insight into different cultures and the risks and challenges of

filmmaking."--Mindquest Review of Books

As someone who does a bit of foreign travel for work, I didn't know what to expect when I picked up this book. What I found was an enjoyable read that captures a unique perspective on culture clashes and working/traveling under sometimes trying circumstances.These short stories are sometimes moving, sometimes funny, but always highly enjoyable. Although Bill Zarchy is a Director of Photography, his stories are about people, more than they are about filmmaking. This makes the stories very relatable to non filmmakers and non travelers alike. This book also made me want to go bowling if I ever get back to Japan.

This fast-paced glimpse into the adventures of a veteran film maker is endlessly entertaining and filled with wise and witty insights into the people he filmed and crews with whom he worked. Whether his subject is the legendary Kurosawa, Steve Job,or President Clinton --Bill Zarchy shares his encounters with both irresistible humor and humility. His keen eye reveals not just the best camera shot but the endlessly varied cultures and landscapes through which he journeyed. As a cinema studies professor, I am happy to recommend it In to both students and colleagues alike.

"Showdown at Shinagawa," Bill Zarchy's memoir, takes us around the world as he "films" what are for the most part corporate videos documenting Silicon Valley or Japanese tech wonders at work in the heart of Africa, the highways of New Zealand, or the hinterlands of India. Name it and Zarchy has been there, desperately trying to keep on schedule, find suitable locations, and communicate with crews whose cultures and languages differ from week to week.Zarchy is a very likable man and the "local hires" with whom he must work creatively are almost always capable and trustworthy. It is a surprisingly collaborative business involving directors, producers, camera and crane operators, gaffers, sound recordistsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •dozens of talents are involved. Zarchy writes of these "improvisational gypsies, who expertly schlep their talents and their gear to each day's office, wherever it happens to be, put it all together in new and unique configurations, make magic, then strike their tents and move on.""Showdown at Shinagawa" is Zarchy's first book although he has been printed in anthologies and several of the pieces in the book have been awarded prizes for travel writing. His underlying theme is the universality of all peoples on the globe, which is certainly commendable, but it often reads more like the sort of anecdotes that business associates regale each other with around a dinner table while the uninitiated sit sort of glassy-eyed and surreptitiously check their watches. As the saying goes, you had to have been

thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|HoweverÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •big howeverÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •the book introduces us to wonderful online viewing where Zarchy's remarkable photographic talents are on display in blogs and links, where technology and humanity converge visually, and where that dinner table conversation comes alive. Bookreview.com suggests you put your SFGiant's cap on backwards, grab a cup of coffee or a beer, open a copy of "Showdown at Shinagawa," and get to know a very interesting guy in a very interesting business.

Showdown at Shinagawa is, in essence, a travel journal. The author, a veteran of traveling for business purposes, gives us a peek into his work and play habits and his observations of the culture and people during his trip. The book also addresses cultural similarities and dissimilarities between various cultures. For instance, although Japan often does import Western media and is becoming more and more international, they still maintain a very different culture, partly due to their isolationist past. A Shanghai restaurant that had only squat toilets was a surprise. He also speaks of various issues that arise from working with people who are used to different ways of doing business. These little tidbits and comparisons were what I found most interesting in the book.The writing is informal, and has enough wit to carry the stories. The author omits enough; we don't get the usual long-winded descriptions of the scenery, but he does communicate the hustle and bustle of busy cities or the over-enthusiastic cheer of hotel workers. It gives a different taste from most travel memoirs.As someone who is trying to learn Japanese and intends to visit the country someday, I really enjoyed the first short story. However, I think the entire book was amusing and informative, and those with any interest in foreign lands and travel would enjoy it, too.

Showdown at Shinagawa is a really fun book to read written by film maker Bill Zarchy as he travelled the world trying to communicate and work in many different cultures. I love reading about different cultures so this book was absolutely perfect for me. Each story is presented as if youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re sitting in Mr. ZarchyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s living room and heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s regaling you with everything that has happened during his visits. Each story starts with a few pictures which, unfortunately on my ereader, were too small for me to enjoy a whole lot. Then the author lets loose with all of the fun, insanity and hilarity that probably didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t seem all that great at the time. The differences in the food seems to be a common thread as is the fact that Mr. Zarchy is far taller than any of people on the Asian continent. He also tells some tales about famous people, one guy a bit prickly and one very hospitable. A pleasant surprise were some of the links provided that led to the actual films that Mr. Zarchy helped

make. The book is well formatted and edited for an ereader (except for the small photos which may have just been due to my ereader) and the cover tempted me to buy and delve into this wonderfully fun book. I would love to see a second volume if the author has more stories to tell.

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