

Setting the Scene



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著者:Robert S. Sennett

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This stunningly illustrated album is a glorious, highly perceptive tribute to Hollywood's unsung heroes-art directors or production designers, who, with responsibility for settings, special effects and a film's overall look, can make or break a movie. Moving from the earliest silents to recent box-office hits, Sennett (Photography and Photographers to 1900) throws a floodlight on the techniques, working habits, personal idiosyncrasies, lives and styles of art directors such as Frank Wortman (Birth of a Nation), Richard Day (On the Waterfront), William Menzies (Gone with the Wind), Dean Tavoularis (The Godfather) and Anton Furst (Batman). He devotes separate chapters to musicals, horror films, westerns, movies with exotic or foreign locales (Lost Horizon; Amadeus) and Alfred Hitchcock, who designed his own films. Film buffs and casual readers will gain a new perspective on cinematic history and how art direction

interacts with plot, character and acting to create a unified statement.

作者介绍:

Sennett, son of prolific film historian Ted Sennett, has produced an attractive book about Hollywood's art directors-those individuals usually most responsible for the "look" of a film. Wisely, Sennett eschews a straight chronological approach and instead organizes his book by film genre (e.g., musicals, Westerns, science fiction). The illustrations are well chosen, although more color would have been welcome, and the color photos used would be more effective were they not all grouped together. Unfortunately, Sennett's text is only serviceable and relies too much on plot synopses. A detailed look at a film or two, along with the once-over-lightly approach used on the other films, would have helped, as would some interviews. Only for comprehensive film studies collections.

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