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Master Shots Vol 2: Shooting Great Dialogue Scenes



Synopsis

Dialogue scenes are the most important moments in your film, but most directors get them wrong. If you block your scenes well, you do more than capture the basic scene; you echo the meaning, emotion, and drama of every moment. That is never more important than with dialogue. Whatever your budget, there is an exciting way to capture dialogue. It is a tragedy that so many directors are happy to open a scene with a moving master shot, and then just settle into dull coverage for the dialogue. You can do better than that and Master Shots Vol 2 gives you 100 ways to shoot dynamic dialogue.

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Customer Reviews

If you read the first volume of Master shots, then you probably don't need to read this one. This is a great book, but it doesn't add much more to the principles that Kenworthy brought up in his first book. However, purchasing this book because you want a complete set isn't a bad idea because they are both set up more like reference books than actual learning books. It's a good book and equal to the first book, I just feel like it's the same things as the original master shots.

I just had the pleasure to read through Christopher Kenworthy's new book Master Shots Vol 2. To say its amazing and useful is an understatement. If you have ever wanted to create shots like the pros this is a must have reference for you. Inside are examples from movies such as Defiance, 21 grams, and 1984 plus many more. All are great storytelling shots worthy to emulate. The text will

walk you through how to set up the shots and the pictures and screen grabs show are amazing references. The 11 Chapters cover such topics as conflict, increasing tension, connecting characters, intimacy, and even making walking and talking look tremendous! For a sample of the book visit their Scribd page here. I'm sure you will agree this is a must have reference for any filmmaker! FilmmakingCentral gives Christopher Kenworthy's new book Master Shots Vol 2 5/5 stars.

I bought the paper edition and loved it, but because I don't want to bring this book along with me on set I also bought the kindle edition. I expected the kindle edition to be like a dictionary that I could look ideas up in, but the images are way too small. You can enlarge them, but why do you need to? The illustrations should have been placed before the text instead of after or ideally (like in the book) next to it. Reading about a setup when you can't see the illustration until after you read it doesn't make any sense and people remember pictures more than words. In the book the illustrations are on the opposite page so you can refer back and forth as you are reading. Buy the book or wait for another, updated version. For me, what would have been useful would be to have all the illustrations as a picture book so that I quickly can look something up, then click on the image and be brought to the page that describes the shot. Also it would have been great to have the illustrations in colour (I assume the book is black and white for cost reasons)

If you enjoyed the first master shots you will love this one as well. It is set up the same way the other book is. It shows you different dialogue scenes from movies and breaks down how they did the shots so that you can use them for your own films. It's a lot like photography books that show you how a photographer shot their shots. The chapters include Conflict, Increasing Tension, Power Struggle, Group Conversation, Connecting Characters, Revealing Plot, Walking and Talking, Intense Emotions, Intimacy, Long Distance, and Creative Staging. This is a great companion piece to the other book and it's great to throw in your camera bag to use on set or to get ideas while breaking down your script. This is a great book and I completely recommend getting it.

I am a photography major moving into video with the advent of HD SLR I have been shooting and editing short films, commercials, music videos with pretty good success. When I got this book and V1 it changed the professionalism of my videos. Made them easier to shoot, light, and edit! I highly recommend both of these books for pro's and entry level film makers!

I really wanted to get this one for review. I'm really enjoying the "Master Shots" series. This is the second book and it focuses on dialogue scenes. As filmmakers we are visual and this series hits the nail on the head with images and pictures that help the filmmaker understand what's being said. The book is almost like a director on paper. What I also like about this book is being able to look at it before a big shoot and get ideas. That's what the MWP books are really good for, but the "Master Shots" books do it in a very direct manner. Honestly if you've read the first book it's more of the same in this one...BUT in this case that's a good thing. When I was in film school they really teach you the basics of everything. You get little information on setting up shots unless you specifically take a class aimed at that. I really could've used something like this in my film school days and I keep coming back to that. It would've been nice to have something not so technical, but more like this. Most our old books were based around the mechanics of shooting, but these books are based more on the art.

I've been an independent filmmaker for a number of years and normally I wouldn't recommend any book on filmmaking because it's a process of learning while doing. No book is going to teach you to become a filmmaker or DP. You just have to do it. With that said though this book does meet a need and hits it's mark. It is exactly what it states. A listing of different angles and ways to shoot. I personally use it when I do script breakdowns on shots that I haven't decided on how I want to shoot it. Is it going to teach you filmmaking, no, but it will give you pretty clear examples of different set ups to use in a number of different ways.

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