

Directing Workshop – Tim O'Connor

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

I've got a directing teacher who says that books are better than movies, and life is better than books. So, when you're not busy living your life, read as much as you can!

ABOUT FILMMAKING

On Filmmaking by Alexander MacKendrick

MacKendrick's whole life was dedicated to trying to understand storytelling. His chief lesson: the only real way to learn is to make movies, over and over again. But he does his best, and it's probably the best practical guide to filmmaking I've ever come across.

Making Movies by Sidney Lumet

An easy book to read, packed with gems of advice from an American master. What's great here is that he's extremely open about the intricacies of making some of his best films – most notably: *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, and *The Pawnbroker*.

Cassavetes on Cassavetes by Ray Carney

A massive book compiling just about everything Cassavetes ever said in public. The bible of humanist directing. Organized chronologically, this book walks us through Cassavetes' career step-by-step as an actor, writer, film and theater director. All the lessons you'll ever need about the "being there" part of directing (which I'll talk about).

ABOUT WRITING

Six Memos for the Next Millennium by Italo Calvino

Why do we need stories? Six reasons, says Mr. Calvino. It'll make you remember what we're doing this for in the first place.

The Literary Essays of Flannery O'Connor

Nobody talks about creative inspiration better. There's a lot to learn from O'Connor's deep faith. One of the big ideas here is that the chief virtue a writer must have is the patience to wait for the good ideas to come.

"On Writing" & "Fires" by Raymond Carver

Just like his stories, these two essays are stark and to the point. He talks about finding inspiration, writing ideas down on index cards, and making it all up as you go along. Makes you forget for a moment that writing is the most difficult task in the world.

OTHER

Collected Short Stories by Anton Chekhov

They say Chekhov invented realism. I think "they" are referring to his uncanny ability to describe the inner games and deceptions that play out within peoples' minds. These are the best close-ups never filmed. In particular: "The Lady with the Little Dog," "The Name-Day Party," "The Kiss."

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer & The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Interested in comedy? How about character? All the lessons you'll ever need for both are in these two books.