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The Making Of Avatar



Synopsis

In 1995, James Cameron began work on a story that would, more than a decade later, evolve into Avatar, the blockbuster of 2009 and no less than the movie event of the decade. Opening to international critical acclaim (including nine Academy Award® nominations) and unprecedented box-office success, Avatar quickly, within a few short weeks, became the highest-grossing film on record. An epic for our times, this next-generation spectacle blends action, adventure, and romance with a timely message of ecological responsibility while using, and inventing, cutting-edge technologies to transport audiences to a lush, fully realized alien world. No less epic, however, was the groundbreaking and exhaustive process of bringing the film to life. Early brainstorming sessions in Malibu jumpstarted a vast production effort that ultimately spanned several years and multiple continents. The Making of Avatar reveals never-before-seen illustrations and photographs, with a text that charts the technical challenges, innovations, and discoveries that made the film's breakthroughs possible. Working in tandem, artists and technicians created new tools and processes to realize the film's vision, including those for performance capture, which allows the nuances of the actors' performances to be translated faithfully to their digital characters; a virtual camera system, which empowered Cameron to direct within a virtual world with unprecedented range, generate real-time composites, and blend live action and special effects more naturally and intuitively than ever before; and stereoscopic photography, which produced the most immersive 3-D experience to date. Here is the behind-the-scenes celebration of this monumental undertaking, the official record of how Cameron, the actors, and the crew made a film, and made history.

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Customer Reviews

First off let me tell you this book is thick and heavy. When the delivery driver handed it to me I was amazed at the weight of it. Big hardcover, dust-jacket, and over 270 pages...you definitely feel like your getting your money's worth on that fact alone. The authors Lisa Fitzpatrick and Jody Duncan did a perfect job with this book. Jody Duncan writes for 'Cinefex' magazine and I was impressed with her technical article of 'Avatar' when I purchased the magazine issue back in December, so I was naturally excited to see she would be involved with this book as well. She went above and beyond with this one though in my opinion. Like I said, this isn't a small book by any means, you get high-quality bindings with nice huge pages which feature enormous amounts of details that go into the making of this movie. It goes into every aspect of this film's production including; pre-production, principle photography, art-direction, music, editing, and the post-production process. Also found within the book are pictures of concept art and hi-res production stills from the film, behind the scenes pictures of the filming sets, equipment, virtual-camera system, 3D Fusion camera system, the actors, motion-capture systems, etc...I could keep going on but I'll just say there is all kinds of stuff in it. Not to mention, it also covers the elaborate techniques taken by the production team responsible for the state of the art visual effects used for the film. Careful attention to detail was taken, every page has something interesting about it and that's what I liked most about it. Even the pictures have very detailed captions to explain exactly what you are seeing and how it relates to the words you are reading next to it.

I'll start by saying that I don't write many reviews on , but this book is such an excellent reference for fans I had to share my experience reading it. I was initially nervous about purchasing this book despite the seemingly amazing price that offers it for compared to the list price; I had read that the "Art of Avatar" book was somewhat of a let-down for those who were as interested about the tech behind the film as they were the concept art. However, I'm quite glad to say that after finishing this book (which I practically sat down and read front to back over the course of two days) I don't regret a single cent that I spent on it. To begin with (as another reviewer noted) this is a rather high quality book. It is large ("coffee table sized," as they put it) and is bound very well. The 270+ pages are heavy duty and the printing is excellent, though when I read it I did notice that it had a small chemical smell which to me was slightly worse than what you would normally expect from a book such as this. It wasn't enough to distract me from reading, but was noticeable at first. That being

said, the content in it is absolutely fantastic. In the spirit of full disclosure I'll also admit that I was a gigantic fan of this movie when it came out, seeing it multiple times in theaters as well as getting the movie poster and the "Pandora Survival Guide" in addition to the movie itself when it was initially released. But after reading it, I can quite confidently say that this book paired with the upcoming collector's edition of the film may be the end-all complete Avatar experience that people like me wanted immediately after watching the movie. Pictures are large and there's plenty of text which means copious amounts of content.

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