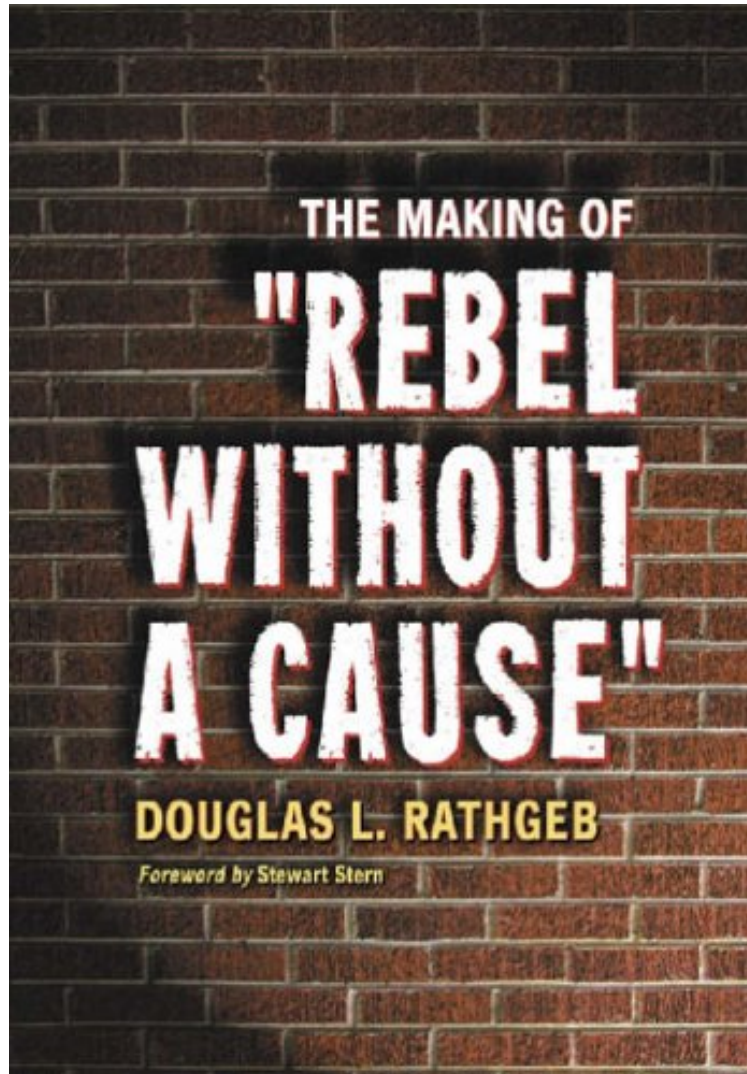


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## The Making of Rebel Without a Cause

*Douglas L. Rathgeb*

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**Douglas L. Rathgeb** : **The Making of Rebel Without a Cause** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of Rebel Without a Cause:

This work is a complete history of this classic American film, from idea to script to film. In 1954, troubled director Nicholas Ray chatted at a dinner party about his controversial plan for a film about middle-class juvenile delinquents. He was told of a book, written by a prison psychologist and owned by Warner Bros., called Rebel Without a Cause. Inspired after reading it, Ray began writing his own story. Warner Bros. quickly bought it and hired Ray to direct the

film. From the backgrounds of the many players to the pre-production, production, and post-production of the film, the work covers every aspect of *Rebel Without a Cause* from its rudiments to the 1955 Oscars: the selection of cast and crew, legal fights, preparatory research, changing screenwriters and the many variations of the story, location scouting, auditions, the writing of the score, script readings, difficulties with the censors, romances and fights, shot-by-shot analyses of the directing, editing, screenings, and, of course, its star's death. Dozens of intimate anecdotes fill the work with every detail from wardrobe decisions to James Dean's pranks to the Air Pollution Control Board's opposition to the final car crashes. An epilogue discusses the possible sequels, rights conflicts, documentaries, musicals, and spin-off attempts, and offers concluding words on the cast and crew. Sources include production records, publicity releases, scripts, newspapers, and discussions with Stewart Stern. An appendix offers two unpublished letters from Stewart Stern to Nicholas Ray and to Marcus and Ortense Winslow.