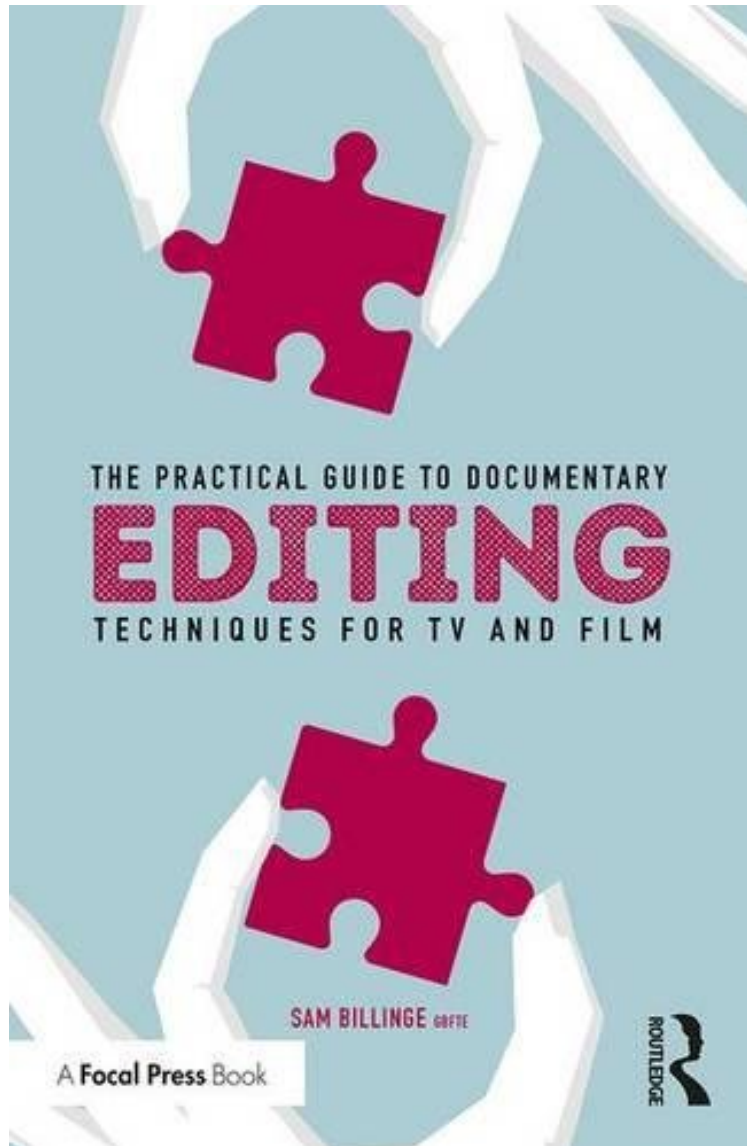


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The Practical Guide to Documentary Editing: Techniques for TV and Film

Sam Billinge

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Sam Billinge : The Practical Guide to Documentary Editing: Techniques for TV and Film before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Practical Guide to Documentary Editing: Techniques for TV and Film:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Top NotchBy Conrad J. ObregonEditing a documentary is different

than editing a fiction narrative, if only because the scenes from the latter follow a prepared script, while the former requires shaping the shots that may be available into a story. This gives the documentary editor far more control over what is shown and how the story is told than the editor of a fiction narrative. Billinge recognizes this and even fiction narrative editors may benefit from reading his work. Billinge reminds us that a documentary should tell a story, although he recognizes the place of montages and episodic films. He discusses the editing of not just the visuals, but also of the sound, including music, and is concerned with the structuring of the piece. He even spends a brief while discussing how to work with the director, and even the suits during the edit to create the best possible video or movie. The information that he provides is useful both to the team player or the lone wolf. While the author is concerned with structuring the film, he also offers suggestions for editing at the micro level, like paying attention to eye trace, that is, the location of the subject on the screen to either allow the viewer to continue to look at the same portion of the screen through the cut or shift the viewers gaze elsewhere on the screen. This can help the viewer to better read the piece. Sometimes his suggestions seem almost contradictory, which makes sense given that editing is an art which requires weighing available techniques. The advice is generic rather than being aimed at specific software like Avid or Premiere Pro, and covers ideas often ignored in software books. I particularly noticed the amount of space dedicated to editing interviews and voice-overs which I had rarely encountered before in a book about editing. I did have one complaint. The publisher should have been more generous with typography. The narrow margins on the page didnt allow the material to breath, even though the generous leading between lines could have been reduced to create wider margins. This is one of the most informative books on editing Ive read. Note: The publisher provided me with a review copy of this book at no charge.

The Practical Guide to Documentary Editing sets out the techniques, the systems and the craft required to edit compelling professional documentary television and film. Working stage by stage through the postproduction process, author Sam Billinge explores project organization, assembling rushes, sequence editing, story structure, music and sound design, and the defining relationship between editor and director. Written by a working documentary editor with over a decades worth of experience cutting films for major British and international broadcasters, The Practical Guide to Documentary Editing offers a unique introduction to the craft of documentary editing, and provides working and aspiring editors with the tools to master their craft in the innovative and fast-paced world of contemporary nonfiction television and film.

"A brilliant introduction to the art of editing. You need process to create and method to find clarity. This book shares the secrets that allow ideas to flow and magic to happen. Documentary editing is the best job in the world. Sam Billinge's book helps you understand why." Sean Mackenzie, Two-time BAFTA TV Award-winning Editor; Arena (1975), Amish: A Secret Life (2012) "This thorough and informative work written by Sam Billinge, an actual practitioner in the art form of which he writes, will be my go-to book recommendation for anyone interested in learning or expanding the craft of documentary editing. When Im asked, 'How do I learn about documentary editing,' this is the book I will be recommending to people." Colin Goudie, GBFTE, Editor, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (2016), Monsters (2010) About the Author Sam Billinge, GBFTE is a documentary editor with more than a decade's worth of experience editing prime-time documentaries for British and international television.