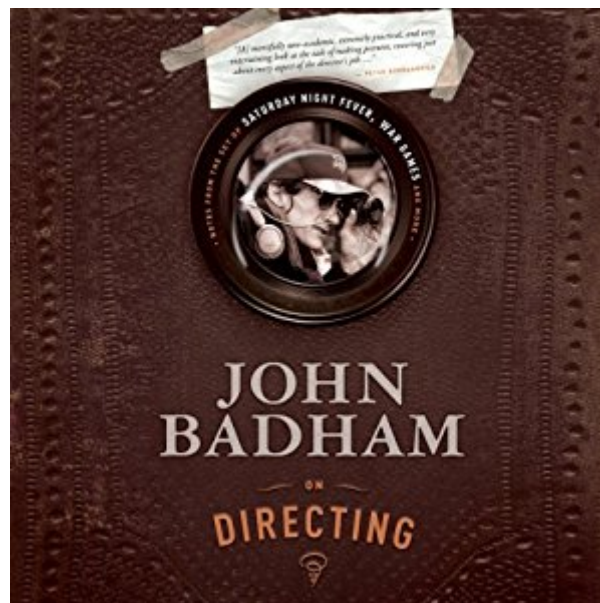




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# John Badham On Directing: Notes From The Sets Of Saturday Night Fever, WarGames, And More



## Synopsis

Veteran director John Badham explains the elements of action and suspense and dissects the essentials of any good scene from any genre. Badham's list of "12 Questions You Must Ask Before Stepping on Set" is an absolute must in any filmmaker's toolbox. Whether actor, director, cinematographer, production designer, or any other creative, Badham gives you the tools to deconstruct and solve scenes that either don't work or need sharpening. Continuing the work begun in his best-selling book *I'll Be in My Trailer*, Badham shares more insights into working with difficult actors, rehearsal techniques, and getting the best performance from your cast.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm shooting my first feature as a director in a few months and have been reading all the books I can find on directing. This one is the closest thing I can find to *Director's Bible*. Very practice and no nonsense framework to directing while still allowing you to bring your own sensibility to the film. I'm weary of books written by academics with little real world experience. Badham is a top notch veteran director (a vastly underrated one at that) who knows his craft inside and out. If you have one book to read before you shoot your first feature, this is the one I'd suggest.

I really enjoyed Badham's book, "Directing." It is interlaced with "real conversations" with veteran directors. A book that will delight you in many ways as its a refreshing approach to the art of directing and working with the actor.

One of the best books on the subject. I have recommended it to many of my colleagues. They all agree. Highly recommend to the novice, and long time experienced, director.

Well organized with practical information, this book can be helpful for a director of any level. It's actually the first book on directing that has kept my interest all the way through.

Cool tips!

Review of John Badham on DirectingHot Toasty Rag, June 9, 2017I know exactly how you feel. You finished John Badham's first book I'll be in my Trailer, and wished desperately that he'd come out with another book. His interviews were so entertaining, his lessons so accessible, and his overall conversational tone so delightful—one book wasn't enough! Well, Professor Badham (as I'll always think of him, since I took his classes at Chapman University) has written another book just for you! (And all the other millions of people who were wishing for the same thing.) Just as in his first book, Professor and Director Badham draws upon his decades of experience to teach future directors how to treat others in the industry with kindness. In my three years at Chapman, Professor Badham was the only teacher who took that attitude. While the first book was mostly focused on the director-actor relationship, John Badham On Directing broadens the syllabus to other aspects of directing. Always humble, always entertaining, Director Badham uses his triumphs and mistakes as lessons in how to keep tension in a scene and how to keep the big picture in mind at all times. When I read it, I kept imagining his delightful voice reading it aloud. His tone isn't pretentious; this is a man you want to get to know. And bonus, it looks like there's an audio version with Professor Badham himself reading his book—how cool is that? I've read a lot of film books during my three years as a film student, many of which were written by my teachers. None compare to John Badham's books. These are in a class by themselves. No pun intended.

I grew up watching John Badham's films so I was excited about reading this book. It was a revelation and I'm happy to say that his book is as entertaining as his films. On Directing interweaves professional preparation for filmmaking and working with actors with storytelling ideas. Take the "Mystery, Surprise, Suspense" section: he shows how all three can be used successfully and less so with films that have stood the test of time such as "Fatal Attraction." Badham quotes

from a scale of A-list professionals: Jodie Foster, Allan Arkush, Sydney Pollack, Oliver Stone, and Richard Donner. His stories from the set, back to his first feature, "The Bingo Long Travelling All-Stars and Motor Kings," illustrate improvisation, flexibility, and openness to ideas. He later walks through how each scene relates to a film and story, using examples as diverse as "True Grit" and "Juno." The summaries at the end of each chapter are a handbook for all directors while shooting. John enlightens, encapsulates, and most of all, inspires. I recently read William Friedkin's memoir where he said you don't need to go to film school, just watch Hitchcock's movies. I'd say watch Hitchcock, listen to Badham. Dave Watson, Editor, Movies Matter, [...]

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