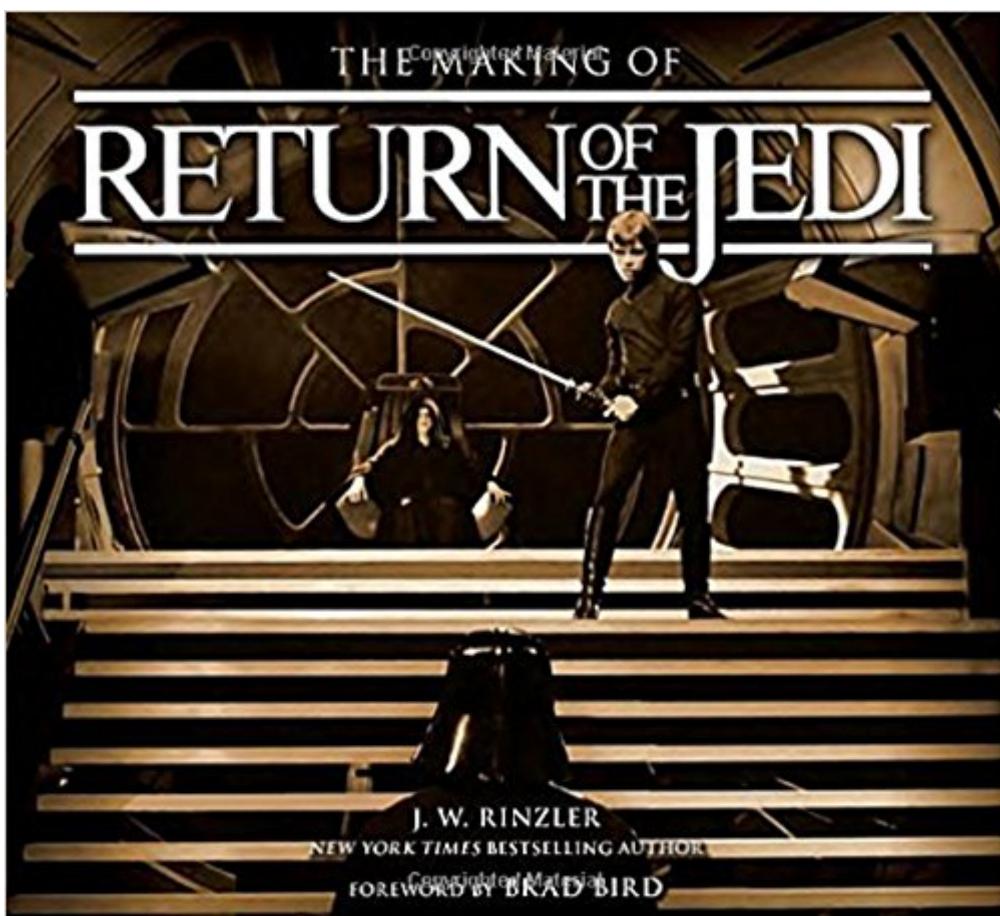


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# The Making Of Star Wars: Return Of The Jedi



## Synopsis

Just as Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi completed the most successful cinematic trilogy of its generation, perhaps of all time, this splendid thirtieth-anniversary tribute completes New York Times bestselling author J. W. Rinzler's trio of fascinating behind-the-scenes books celebrating George Lucas's classic films. Once again, the author's unprecedented access to the formidable Lucasfilm Archives has yielded a mother lode of extremely informative, vastly entertaining, and often unexpected stories, anecdotes, recollections, and revelations straight from the closely guarded set of a big-screen blockbuster in the making. Brimming with previously unpublished photos, production artwork, script excerpts, exclusive intel, vintage on-set interviews, and present-day commentary, *The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* chronicles "how George Lucas and his crew of extroverted artists, misfits, and expert craftspeople roused themselves to great heights for a third time" to create the next unforgettable chapter in one of the most beloved sagas of all time. Get up close to the action and feel like a studio insider as creator George Lucas, Oscar-nominated screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan, and director Richard Marquand huddle in a script conference to debate the destinies of iconic Star Wars characters, as well as plot twists and turns for the epic final showdown between the Rebel Alliance and the Empire. Artists and craftspeople at the groundbreaking Industrial Light & Magic facility top their own revolutionary innovations—despite the infamous Black Friday—with boundary-pushing new analog visual effects. A crack team of sculptors, puppeteers, actors, and "monster-makers" bring Jabba the Hutt and his cohorts to startling, slobbering life from the inside out. A Who—of Who of heavyweight directors—from such films as *Superman*, *Gremlins*, *Halloween*, *Dune*, *Scanners*, and *Time Bandits*—are considered for the coveted job of bringing a new Star Wars adventure to the silver screen. Actors and crew race to the finish line at Elstree Studios, in a fiery desert, and beneath the trees of a dense redwood forest—before money runs out—to answer the questions that audiences had waited three years to find out: Is Darth Vader really Luke's father, who is the "other"—and who or what is the Emperor? Star Wars stars from both sides of the camera—including Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew, David Prowse, Alec Guinness, director Richard Marquand, producer Howard Kazanjian, Ralph McQuarrie, Joe Johnston, Dennis Muren, Phil Tippett, and mastermind George Lucas—weigh in with candid insights on everything from technical challenges, character design, Ewoks, the Empire's galactic city planet, and the ultimate challenge of bringing the phenomenal space fantasy to a

dramatic close. The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi gives a spectacular subject its just due, with more than five hundred images and many, many new interviews. Praise for The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi

“Just like Rinzler’s 2010 volume about Empire Strikes Back, The Making of Star Wars: The Return of the Jedi is an indispensable volume that will add tons of insight to your appreciation of George Lucas’s Original Trilogy. Rinzler has gone through masses of production documents at Lucasfilm and interviewed tons of people, and come up with a portrait of Lucas struggling to find a fitting ending to his ambitious, heroic saga.”

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi

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Praise for J. W. Rinzler’s The Making of Star Wars

“A mammoth tome so packed with photos and facts, a wookiee could get a hernia trying to lift it.”

“New York Daily News

“Outstanding . . . Rinzler’s Making of will be an instant fan fave and a shining star in that galaxy far, far

away.  Library Journal (starred review)

J. W. Rinzler, executive editor at Lucasfilm Ltd., is the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Making of Star Wars* and *The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*, as well as the London Times bestseller *The Complete Making of Indiana Jones*. He also directed the animated short *Riddle of the Black Cat* and is presently working on a children's book.

I have the hardcover books of this series, which are great to flip through pictures of but actually sitting and reading the dense text in a volume that physically large is cumbersome at best. Very glad the digital edition is here for easy tablet reading in bed, and don't regret owning both so I can flip through and look at the great pictures in the book yet still curl up and read the absolutely engrossing text. The video clips included are also pretty neat as well - short, but each one has its own value (like the one on "Endor" when the director gives his direction, then George kind of re-gives it and pretty much ignores what the director said - it really reinforces points of the book). My reason for giving it five stars as opposed to four is because other digital editions had higher resolution video and graphics - they are several times the size of this file and it shows. Several times I wanted to zoom in on something in a photograph but it was too blurry when even blown up a little bit. This was confirmed by the publisher that they send the same digital files to all e-book producers, and for whatever reason lowered the rez. Since I have the hard copy book as well this wasn't a huge deal, but it was kind of annoying. I'll stick with Kindle anyway - it has the best availability on all my devices, the most choices, and I like that my digital library all rests in one place - but if you are only buying the digital version, keep this in mind. Everything was fine to watch/read, but if you want to zoom in and see detail it's just not there. The book itself, though, is absolutely stunning in the amount of data and material. It's really unbelievable. After reading you honestly feel like you were there for each and every day of filming these incredible movies. I'd give the book itself ten stars if I could - the four stars is simply for the digital presentation itself.

Thank you Mr. Rinzler! Another amazing behind the scenes book about the movie that is probably a distant third-favorite for a lot of fans, including me. I haven't finished the text yet, but I'm nearly through it. After this read, I think it's a shame that this movie doesn't get the respect it deserves. A lot of people dismiss it because it's the Ewok movie, but there is so much more-- Sarlacc pit, speeder bike chase, final Luke/ Vader/ Emperor battle/ Death Star 2 space battle... Anyway, about the book-- so glad to get this in Kindle edition. Reading it on a Kindle Fire, so I haven't had the

issues that Android users had with the video clips. There are plenty of behind the scenes video clips and audio interviews. I've been a fan since the beginning, and I'm pretty sure that a lot of these haven't seen the light of day since 1982/83. Plenty of concept art too, but if you have seen *The Art of Return of the Jedi* (from original release time), you've seen a lot of this already. What was new in the artwork was all of the conceptual stuff that got eliminated as the script was developed and simplified. Lots of underground volcano lair and Emperor's fortress art for example. Jabba's evolution too. The text, much like the first two of Mr. Rinzler's books, is fascinating. *Making of Star Wars* showed us the business behind making what was basically a giant indy film, *Making of ESB* took it to the next stage as Lucasfilm was growing, and in this book, we see it maturing as the top special effects shop in motion pictures. Somehow, they were always just scraping by financially-- they needed to re-release Episode 4 again in 1982 just to get enough to finance ROTJ. Rinzler doesn't shy away from Lucas's faults-- micromanaging his director and special effects team, refusing to compromise on plot points that no one else understood (Ewoks!), aiming at a younger audience and steering clear of any sad endings. But he is still respectful. There are a ton of interviews, both from the time the film was made and from the present. Hamill on board with everything then and now, Fisher sarcastic as hell and Ford was a stick in the mud then and now. Richard Marquand (director) seemed to have to bite his tongue every day that he dealt with Lucas, but was ever respectful. OK Mr. Rinzler-- please tell me that you are now working of *The Making of Raiders of the Lost Ark*!

I thought that after reading about the making of *The Empire Strikes Back*, that I'd read about as hellish a Star Wars production could be. I was wrong. *Return of the Jedi* topped the making of both previous films, in the what can go wrong, or crews at the end of their insanity department. Even George Lucas couldn't escape the wrath of making the film. I was interested in knowing more about Richard Marquand, as the director. The book delves into his participation in a lengthy recorded meeting, in which writer, Larry Kasdan, Producer, Howard Kazanjian, Lucas, and Marquand essentially create, rehash, and argue their way through the story. Marquand had a suggestion, that many fanboys have drooled over ever since. I'm glad I read this whole trilogies making of's. A great season of reads.

If you're reading this review (and considering this book), I'll assume you've read "*The Making of Star Wars: The Definitive Story of the Original Film*" and "*The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*". And, like me, you may be wondering if this last book is worth it, or if there is much story left to

tell. (If you haven't read the first two, then don't get this book until you've read them). But I hesitated before getting this book, because how much drama could there have been for the third film? The series was proven, the money had been rolling in, the effects industry was maturing. But I was wrong. This book paints a thoroughly entertaining portrait of the effort and thinking behind Return of the Jedi. As with the other books, the reader is given a forensic view of the pre-production, production and post-production of the film. And it's a fascinating ride. No matter how much you might think you know about Star Wars and Return of the Jedi, this book is sure to blow your mind with all the bits of trivia and info that pop up. Not only would I consider this book to be essential reading for any Star Wars fan, but it is a worthy document of the process of blockbuster film making in the early 1980s in general.

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