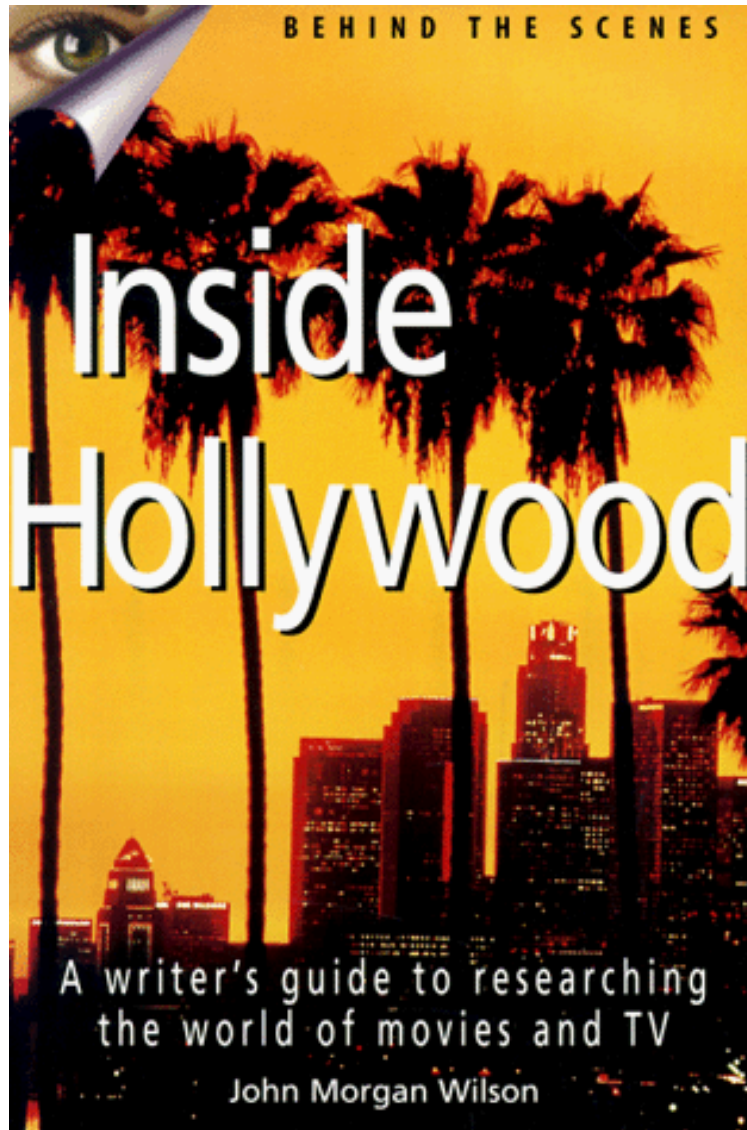


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## Inside Hollywood: A Writer's Guide to the World of Movies and TV (Behind the Scenes)

*John Morgan Wilson*

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**John Morgan Wilson : Inside Hollywood: A Writer's Guide to the World of Movies and TV (Behind the Scenes)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inside Hollywood: A Writer's Guide to the World of Movies and TV (Behind the Scenes):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Very, Very Useful Book By Richard B. Schwartz This is an

exceptional guide to all things Hollywood. It is particularly important for screenwriters, but it is useful as well for novelists. It describes the movie industry, the television business, the individuals who create art and entertainment, their culture, lifestyle and language. There is a particularly useful chapter on the process of moving a screenplay from the author's imagination to its actual production and a chapter on the geography of southern California. In addition to its usefulness as a history, a guide and a how-to book, it is also very helpful as a reference book. It is filled with information on Tinseltown offices and institutions, with addresses and phone numbers provided. There are three glossaries of Hollywood terms: professional terms, production terms and slang. This is a book that will enrich the experience of filmgoers; at the same time it is a perfect guide for student writers and aspiring filmmakers. Since it was published in 1998, some of the material is now out of date, but this book tells you what to look for; the internet can supplement it with current addresses and current phone numbers. I would also recommend (as John Morgan Wilson does), William Goldman on Hollywood, Syd Field on Screenwriting and Mike Davis on Los Angeles. He provides a fulsome list of other titles. Check them out.

Whether you want to write about or pursue a career in Hollywood, you'll learn the lingo, business protocol and physical geography that characterize this famed city, featuring movie deals and money jargon, from net profits and points to first-dollar gross and boot strapping; a historic timeline of L.A. and Hollywood covering everything from the birth of the "star system" through today's monster-budget hits and disasters; charts detailing the structure of agencies, studios, networks and production companies; common studio occupations, such as gaffers, best boys and script doctors with details on salaries, unions and job requirements; how Hollywood deals with ageism, racism and homophobia, along with the most comprehensive listing of Hollywood minority organizations; and detailed glossaries, plus information on hundreds of additional resources from libraries and museums to websites and movies.

From Library Journal There are a lot of fine "how to write a screenplay" titles out and about, but what makes Keane's *How To Write a Selling Screenplay* unique is the examination on a step-by-step basis of a screenplay, *The Crossing*, that the author wrote. The teacher/pupil-type exchange, as you closely examine the screenplay, reads almost as if you were asking pertinent questions in class at just the right moments. Keane discusses each screenwriting point (opening sequence, inciting incident, plot point #1, etc.) as it occurs in his screenplay. This makes for twice the fun as you learn solid screenwriting tactics and get to read a thrilling story to boot! Wilson's *Inside Hollywood* is an eclectic sampling of Tinseltown, never too much information, never quite enough, but a perfect starting point for anyone interested in the motion picture industry. This survival guide to the biz also comes in a format unlike anything this reviewer has ever seen before. Where else will you find the history of Hollywood, an overview of the movie and television industries, and an examination of various film-related job titles, salaries, etc., while taking a quick look at the city of Los Angeles itself? Both books are well written and are essential for strengthening your movie-writing collection. Marty D. Evensvold, Magnolia Branch Lib., TX Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.