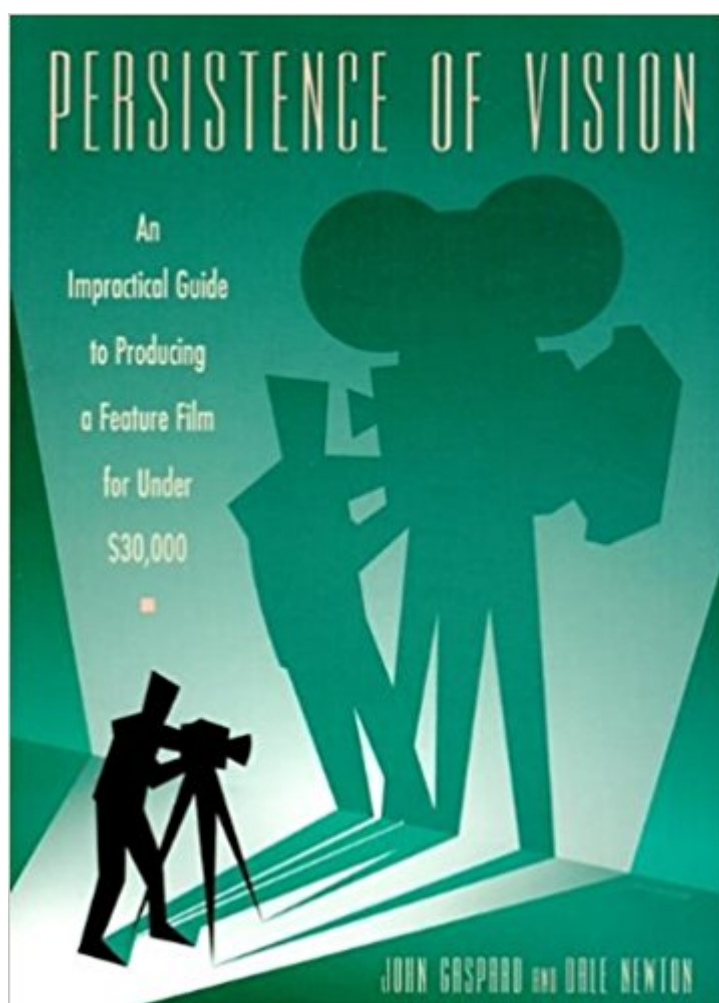


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# Persistence Of Vision: An Impractical Guide To Producing A Feature Film For Under \$30,000



## Synopsis

The ultimate low budget ""how-to"" film book on the market.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a book about how to produce a high quality feature film on a budget of less than \$30,000. The authors start out by saying "Buying this book was your first mistake" and go on to explain the first two tenets of their philosophy: 1) Never pay full price for anything, and 2) Never ever buy what you can borrow or get for free. Their points are well taken, and I don't mean to be disagreeable, but I think this book is still worth buying. Filled with good humor and healthy skepticism about commonly held beliefs and instructions for potential filmmakers, this is a book any would-be movie maker would do well to read. While debunking many myths and misconceptions about making films, it is not a dry manual, but rather, a realistic how-to book written by two guys who know what they are talking about from personal experience, including their admitted mistakes. I never gave filmmaking a thought previously, but now? Maybe. Could happen.

Persistence of Vision reveals the challenging and often humorous process of creating ultra-low-budget feature films for \$30,000 or less. It includes practical information on writing the script, budgeting, raising financing, casting, putting together a crew, and dealing with distributors. You'll Learn How To: -- Write For A Tiny Budget-- Create Unique Characters-- Make Practical Business Decisions-- Find Investors-- Breakdown A Script-- Cast-- Create Low Budget Special Effects-- Get Your Film Out Into The World This step-by-step book is an invaluable tool for

all ultra-low-budget and novice filmmakers and includes interviews with ultra-low-budget filmmakers and a large Appendix of essential forms, contracts and addresses. When it comes to producing successful films on a shoestring, authors John Gaspard and Dale Newton know of what they speak. Together they created ""Resident Alien"" and ""Beyond Bob"", two critically-acclaimed ultra-low-budget features using the tactics and strategies outlined in this book.

I purchased this book back in 1995. While a lot of the book is irrelevant to the digital and video age, that is still A LOT that can be taken from this book. There are plenty of tricks of the trade with regards to shooting, budgeting, etc. that are still in use today. One example that I can give is while shooting in Minnesota, they simply created a road sign welcoming the characters to a city that was nowhere near them and outside of their operating budget. So, if your setting is in New York and cannot afford to shoot there, build a road sign that says, "Welcome to New York" on a location near you. The writers have put out books on shooting in the digital age. They're well worth the purchase price. I also found them to be very approachable, answering letters (pre-email) and e-mails. Please do not dismiss this book.

I've read this book and have found it quite useful - I'm using it as the starting point for my own forays in this area - and the best thing I can say about it is the spirit it engenders. There are probably a million ways to make a film but you'll never make one unless you believe you can - and this book by showing you very effective means goes along way into making you believe you can. It's quite comprehensive and goes into good detail though I wouldn't say it was the last word on film-making but then nor does it - and that's not the point because it gives you enough to not just get started with but to make an actual film with - and whatever more you want or need you're natural learning and further exploration will take you to. I recommend it.

While this is still a good book and certainly has reaffirmed my desire to see what I have created on screen the Impractical guide is showing its age a little. My main problem with the text is the way they dismissed video out of hand, and thus little of what they have written pertains to digital film creation. The modern indie film maker will be well versed in the film vs digital dilemma, when this was written that didn't even seem to be an issue. However it also details with finding actors, crew and resources and all the other fundamentals of pulling together whatever you can find to make your picture.

I own about 20 books on filmmaking, and this book is very good, probably the best out of the 20. The

writers of the book have made a couple of film features (not digital), and they detail everything that they did in the process. Robert Rodriguez's book "rebel without a crew" is a very, very inspirational book. But this book explains every step in the process from starting out writing, to making a camera dolly for \$80, to using the canadian exchange rates to your advantage. I got the book used here on for \$15. Buy the book, then write a review here, and then go out and make your film!

There's enough practical information here that you could probably go out and do it - the only meaningful test for a how-to book. But the pages are small, the type is large, the filler is plentiful, and the cover price is exorbitant. Your call.

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