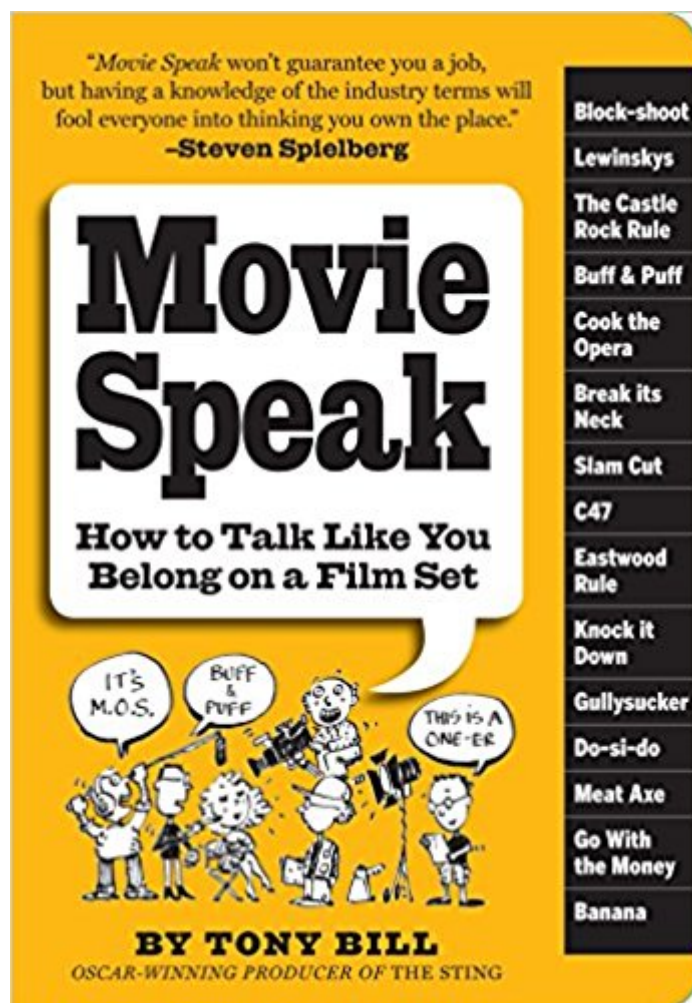


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Movie Speak: How To Talk Like You Belong On A Film Set



Synopsis

When is "groucho" not a comedian? A "seagull" not a bird? A "banana" not a fruit, and a "taco cart" not a food stand? What's the "Castle rock rule" and when should you call for a "buff & puff"? And why expect trouble when the A.D. (assistant director) knowingly mumbles "Gone With the Wind in the morning, Dukes of Hazzard after lunch"? An oral tradition gathered and passed down for more than a hundred years, the language of moviemaking, like other secret lexicons, is the only accepted way of communicating on a set—and is all but unknown to the outside world. Technical, odd, colorful, mysterious, the working language of movies sheds light not only on the hugely complex process of making a film, but on the invisible hierarchies of a set, the unspoken etiquette between cast and crew, and the evolution of a process that's endlessly fascinating. *Movie Speak* is a book about language, but through language also a book about what it's really like to be a director or a producer or an actor or a crew member. An Oscar-winning producer (*The Sting*), actor (who worked with Spielberg, Coppola, and Sydney Pollock), and director (*Five Corners*, *Flyboys*, *My Bodyguard*, and more), Tony Bill has been on sets for more than 30 years and brings a writer's love of language to this collection of hundreds of film terms. A futz. A cowboy. A Brodtkin and a double Brodtkin (a.k.a. screamer). Streaks on tips, a Lewinsky, Green Acres, rhubarb, a peanut, a Gary Coleman, snot tape, twin buttes, manmaker (and why you can yell for one if needed for a grip, but must whisper if it's for Tom Cruise)—these are the tricks of the trade.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tony Bill started out in Hollywood as an actor, became an Oscar-winning producer (The Sting), and then a director for film (My Bodyguard, Five Corners, Untamed Heart, Flyboys, and more) and television (Truman Capote's "One Christmas," Harlan County War, Pictures of Hollis Woods). He teaches and lectures widely on film and lives with his family in the oldest house in Venice, California.

I got a lot of good information out of this book, it was a fun read, and I'd recommend it to anyone interested in the film industry. I got it because I was studying some script writing stuff (I heard the author speaking on a blog). In any case, it's not a "how-to" book so much, just more of a way to not be such an outsider if you're going to be involved in a film (or tv) production.

Much more than what it pretends to be, Movie Speak is not the mere nomenclature of moviemaking terminology its cover suggests. It's actually a very funny and well-written guide to movies and the devilish details in the lives of the people who make them. If you work in the movies this book will be a short-cut to years of accumulating the kind of inside knowledge you could never get without tuned ears, sharp eyes and top crews, packaged in a handy format small enough to hide in your favorite fishing vest or cargo pants. But that said, this book might be even better for those of us who do not work in the movies and just like them, because Movie Speak will make watching movies more fun. And at \$8.95 it's priced right as a gift for anyone into film. You get the feeling that Tony Bill has a great time in his job and more importantly for his readers, he enjoys sharing the best of his experience with us. Movie Speak is from the kind of guy who'd be rooting for you if you were in the film business. His book is fun, useful, smart and informative. All in all, a great read, a fine reference and a cool little gem.

I bought this book for vocabulary for a book series I'm writing. I expected something along the lines of a dictionary. I was pleasantly surprised by Bill's essays and stories throughout the usual vocabulary/definition lists. He brings a lot more depth and insights to the subject. If you need to know the words, this book will also help you understand the culture and nuances of the field.

Recommended.

While there's useful information, the attraction of this slim volume is Tony Bill's wry take on many things Hollywood.

Fun read. I can't tell you if it's accurate since all these words are new to me. And I can't say for definitely but even if I didn't want to make movies OR learn the terms this book would still be entertaining. The author just makes it interesting. It's in dictionary form. A-Z with all the different movie slang. I took this to L.A. and was surprised how many people had never heard of it. So if you know any aspiring movie makers this would make a great gift they probably haven't read yet.

The multi-talented Tony Bill shares his knowledge of film-set vernacular in this concise volume. How does the author make what in essence is a dictionary so incredibly entertaining? Bill's self-effacing, wise-guy sarcasm and dark-humoured slant on the derivations of this rather arcane and occasionally bizarre nomenclature makes for good reading, whether you're lingering over cocktails on the porch, or waiting in line at the DMV. However, anyone concerned about avoiding foot-in-mouth disease at the studio or on location would be well-advised to pack one of these little gems on his or her person at all times. My copy is in my brief case -- just in case. *Â* *Â* *Makin' Stuff Up*, secrets of songcraft and survival in the music-biz

I've been in the movie business for 35 years, and I love this book. Bought copies to give as Christmas gifts to all my movie co-workers who also were delighted by it. A must-have for the library of anyone in the know....

As a long-time professional actress, I knew most of these terms. But it was a delight to find them all together in one place -- and in a tiny, charming volume~! Love it! If you already know terms but need them in one place, or need a brush up, you'll love it. If you're a beginner you will be MORE than thrilled. So worth it!

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