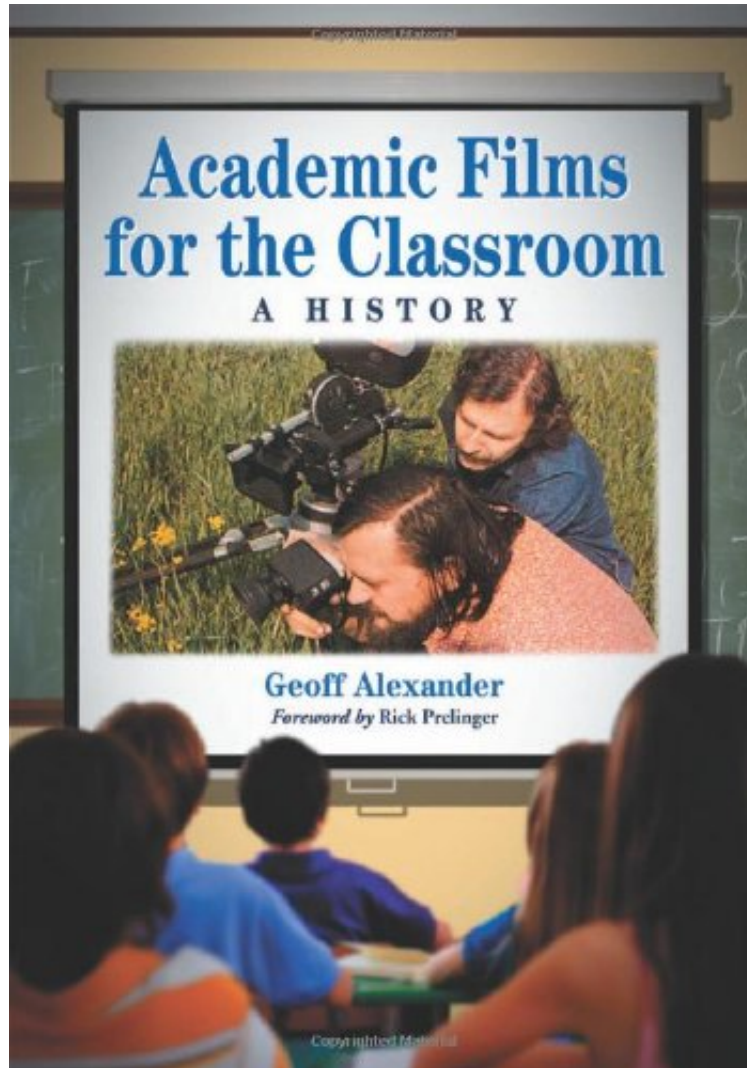


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Academic Films for the Classroom: A History

Geoff Alexander

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Geoff Alexander : Academic Films for the Classroom: A History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Academic Films for the Classroom: A History*:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A book you'll want to keep By T. Smith I thoroughly enjoyed Geoff Alexander's new book, "Academic Films for the Classroom." Those of us who were in school sometime between WWII to 1980, remember well the classroom film. I was surprised to learn that there were over 100,000 of them. A few were laughably poor by today's standards, most were functional teaching tools but there was the occasional gem that presented things in a new light and fired our interest. Who made these films? How did they get to the schools? No one to date has so carefully chronicled the history of the academic film as Alexander has in his new book. It covers the

silent era and up to the 1980s when 16mm projectors disappeared from classrooms. Alexander also provides biographical sketches of 35 filmmakers with a thumbnail description of their contributions to this stepchild of the movies. In addition he profiles the major companies that produced and marketed the 16mm films. Some were small with two or three filmmakers and others, like Encyclopaedia Britannica Film who had a production staff of more than 100 plus a sales force equally as large. When they hit their peak, there were units in Hollywood, Chicago and New York. In 1970 they published a 200 page catalogue of films and filmstrips. Now it's gone. This book is a good read for anyone interested in filmmaking, education and for those of us who simply recall with pleasure when the classroom was darkened and occasionally, magic was projected on the pull-down screen. Alexander also provides a very useful reference, a list of web sites where academic films can currently be seen in their full length, on line and free. This is a book you'll want to keep. T.G. Smith .1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. So you think you know film?By Donald J. CampauGeoff Alexander's new book on educational, or academic, films is incredibly well documented and written. Years and years in the making, this is the definitive book on this fascinating subject so far. These films were not just the cheeseball scientific, white-lab coat films you saw in high school but also high quality, beautifully shot and produced films by such notable directors as John Barnes and Norman McLaren. If you think you know about film you only know part of the story until you have read this historic book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Ariel I. SchudsonA BIBLE for academic/educational films. Seriously. A must-have!!!

Exploring a realm of film often dismissed as campy or contrived, this book traces the history of classroom educational films from the silent era through the 1980s, when film finally began to lose ground to video-based and digital media. It profiles 35 individual academic filmmakers who played a role in bringing these roughly 110,000 16mm films to classrooms across North America, paying particular attention to auteur John Barnes and his largely neglected body of work. Other topics include: the production companies contributing to the growth and development of the academic film genre; the complex history of post-Sputnik, federally-funded educational initiatives which influenced the growth of the academic film genre; and the denouement of the genre in classrooms and its resurgence on the Internet.

"Alexander's book is a highly readable paean to the men and women behind these academic films...Alexander's compelling narrative and anecdotal style make it hard to put the book down"--The Moving Image.From the AuthorThis is the companion volume to my second book "Films You Saw in School."About the AuthorGeoff Alexander is the director of the Academic Film Archive of North America, the first archive solely dedicated to the history, preservation, and scholarship of the classroom educational film. He has been documenting the history of this film genre since the early 1990s.