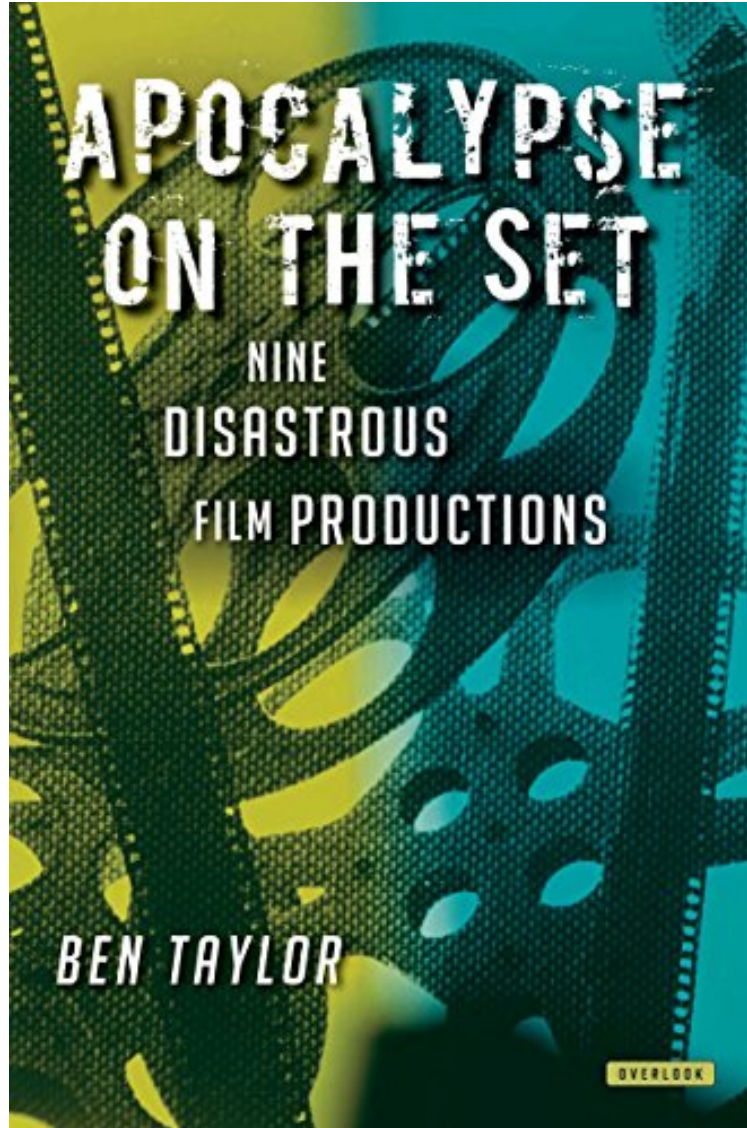


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Apocalypse on the Set: Nine Disastrous Film Productions

Ben Taylor

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#1138029 in Books 2012-02-02 2012-02-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x .99 x 6.311, .65 #File Name: 1590201884352 pages | File size: 66.Mb

Ben Taylor : Apocalypse on the Set: Nine Disastrous Film Productions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Apocalypse on the Set: Nine Disastrous Film Productions:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well done look at these filmsBy Alaine SepulvedaI really enjoy reading books of this kind. You know, the type that shows what type of horrible things can go wrong while making a movie. This one focuses on 9 different films, and each has their own set of badness that came with it. This book chronicles just how bad things got and how the film studios and filmmakers had to deal with the fallout.Most of these

type of books chronicle the same stories, *Twilight Zone: The Movie*, *Apocalypse Now*, or *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* for example, so if you have read these stories before, you won't find much new here. However, the stories are still interesting and you get other films such as *Heaven's Gate* and *Waterworld*, so that helps. That said, the book does suffer from spending too much time on the back story of the films and the events leading up to the disasters, that it doesn't spend a ton of time with the final outcomes and the ultimate fate of the motion picture. In other words, there were several of these stories that I was left wanting more. If you are like me, and enjoying reading about just how things can fall to pieces on a movie set, this is a very good read. You might, like me, be left wanting more, which is the book's major flaw. Still, it was interesting and kept me turning the page, so it was a success on that end. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating insights into film productions gone bad By Greg Enslin I really wanted to love this book, but I really just ended up liking it. It covers a fascinating subject - film productions that spun out of control or nearly collapsed under the weight of their own ambition or hubris. And reading this book made me want to run right out and add all of these films to my Netflix queue. But some of the writing was murky or possibly gleaned from third or fourth-hand media accounts. And I found the author's choice to illuminate the stories with unrelated tales a bit disjointed. In one section he's describing how a stuntman was killed in early Hollywood, and then goes on to describe the tragic situation that killed three actors on the set of "*Twilight Zone: The Movie*." But the stories never tied together and ended up being completely unrelated. I figured out what he was doing - trying to illuminate one story by telling another, completely unrelated story -- but the juxtaposition was awkward. But if you're a fan of disastrous movie sets, this book is a must read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read By Kelly All in all, I really enjoyed this book. The nine chosen stories are diverse and unique, the subjects different enough from each other that they were enjoyable without feeling repetitive. Some of the stories I already knew--such as *The Crow*--but most of them were completely new to me, and genuinely interesting. The only real detraction was the intros to each of the chapters. Mini-stories that really had nothing to do with what they were meant to introduce, and often vague with too little detail to be enjoyable. Get past that, though, and interesting look into the history of some of the most disastrous movie-making experiences ever.

The book starts with *Pulgasari*--a North Korean Godzilla clone dreamed up by Kim Jong-Il and created by a kidnapped Korean director, with a budget of millions and a staff of seven hundred fed on truckloads of pheasants, wild geese, and deer. The stories behind the other eight films, from *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* and *The Twilight Zone: The Movie* to *Apocalypse Now* and *The Crow*, are just as astounding and gripping--this is a book film fans will devour. These bizarre, often hilarious cinematic endeavors confirm that truth is stranger than fiction, reality more volatile than narratives, and fate more improbable than plots.

From Booklist Taylor provides a thoroughly entertaining look at the trials and tribulations that plagued the filming of nine now infamous motion pictures. From ballooning costs to vexing locations to shocking fatalities, the nine films Taylor discusses reveal how easily ambition and stubbornness can plague a production. The opening chapter, devoted to *The Twilight Zone: The Movie*, is easily the most gruesome: a lead actor, Vic Morrow, and two children were killed when an ill-advised stunt involving a helicopter went awry. The death of Brandon Lee (himself the son of an actor), who died on the set of *The Crow* due to a bullet mishap, is equally tragic. Other productions had their own sets of challenges: *The Abyss*, filmed underwater, proved incredibly taxing to cast and crew and almost cost director James Cameron his life. Budgets skyrocketed on films such as *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* and *Waterworld*, which brought in little at the box office to justify their enormous expense. A must-read for film buffs and anyone curious about the many ways filming a movie can go awry. --Kristine Huntley "Taylor details the excruciating, mind-boggling and downright insane conditions in which [these] films, both popular and obscure, were made . . . Pick this bad boy up when it hits shelves." Cinebyte.com "Taylor provides a thoroughly entertaining look at the trials and tribulations that plagued the film of nine now infamous motion pictures. A must read for film buffs or anyone curious about the many ways a film can go awry." Booklist About the Author Ben Taylor is a contributing writer for *DamnInteresting.com*, a weekly online publication with 400,000 visitors a month, and contributed to their volume, *Alien Hand Syndrome*. He lives outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.