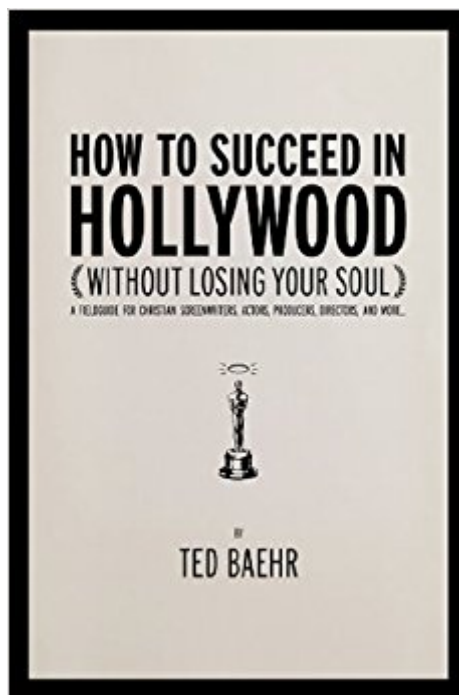




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# **How To Succeed In Hollywood (Without Losing Your Soul): A Field Guide For Christian Screenwriters, Actors, Producers, Directors, And More**



## Synopsis

Ted Baehr is an entertainment industry professional who knows what it takes to make it in Hollywood. Moreover, he is a committed Christian who knows the pressures and opportunities unique to people of faith in this precarious world of show business. *How to Succeed in Hollywood* will show Christians how to use their faith to change the culture of Hollywood and mass media entertainment by using their God-given and God-ordained gifts and talents to make significant creative contributions to the entertainment world. Readers will learn from industry professionals-the brightest and best people of faith in the entertainment industry-how to develop their screenwriting, acting, directing, producing, and behind-the-scenes interests to make Hollywood and the world a better place.

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## Customer Reviews

"Written with real-world practicality, here's a primer on how to break into the movie business while hanging on to your soul." (Stephen Collins, star of *7th Heaven*) "Redeem the media and we can redeem culture. Ted's book *How to Succeed in Hollywood (Without Losing Your Soul)* encourages young filmmakers to help reconstruct the value system that the Woodstock generation have so skillfully undermined." (John Ratzenberger, voice in Pixar movies and star of *Cheers*) "Ted Baehr is a delightful man and he is a delightful writer. Nobody could be better qualified to write this particular book." (Pat Boone, singer and entertainer)

Ted Baehr is Founder and Publisher of Movieguide ([www.movieguide.org](http://www.movieguide.org)) and Chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission, as well as a noted critic, educator, lecturer, and media pundit. His life's purpose is to be used of God to redeem the values of the media while educating audiences on how to use discernment in selecting their entertainment.

As a writer, producer and professor of creative writing, I've read many books on the subject of visual storytelling and making it in the entertainment industry. Ted Baehr has succeeded in Hollywood (without losing his soul) and he graciously opens the doors for other people of faith, hope and love to enter. This insightful book provides a detailed roadmap for Christians looking to take a leap of faith into the motion picture and television industry. In addition to philosophical questions and soul-searching exercises, *How to Succeed in Hollywood* contains practical guidance in every major aspect of film and television, including screenwriting, producing, editing, cinematography, distributing, marketing, acting, and consulting. Readers will also learn some startling statistics and secrets to marketing your project to the biggest possible audience - without compromising your values. Includes insightful interviews with many industry standouts including Randall Wallace, Andrew Stanton, Jane Russell, Ralph Winter and Linda Seger, just to name a few. I highly recommend this as a true field guide for Christian screenwriters, actors, directors, and more.

I graduated from a Christian film school so I've read a lot of books about filmmaking and the Christian's role in the arts today. I like "How to succeed in Hollywood" because it incorporates stories from Christians working in the industry. There is also a significant portion dedicated to helping you find your own voice and develop your own stories. If you've never read a book about the film industry this provides a nice overview of what it takes to get a film from the inception of an idea, through pre-production, production, post-production, and distribution. The one thing I didn't like was that the writers are a little long winded, often hounding the same idea from multiple angles. Because of my background a lot of it was review but I am a firm believe in review. The Christian church's interest and involvement in the film industry is rather new so it is difficult to find books about Hollywood and film production written from a Christian perspective. All in all, I would suggest this book to any other filmmakers or lay people interested in how Christians are interacting with the film industry. Happy reading! Other books like "How to Succeed" that I have enjoyed (listed from shortest to longest): *Digital Film-Making* by Mike Figgis (short, sweet, and funny. One of my favorite film production books ever). *Producing with Passion: Making Films That Change the World* by Dorothy Fadiman and Tony Levelle (specifically written for documentary filmmakers but applicable

lessons for all)The Independent Film Producer's Survival Guide: A Business and Legal Sourcebook by Gunnar Erickson, Harris Tulchin, and Mark Haloran (a LOT of technical jargon but once you plow through that this provides a great primer to the nitty-gritty-nuts-and-bolts-business side of film production).

This is an excellent book for Christians wanting to get into the film industry. It gives a great overview of the whole process and explains what some of the jobs look like. Most people know what the job of the actors, director, and writers are but there are obviously a lot more jobs in the industry. This book is a great way to identify what you want to do and then move forward learning more about that specific job with other resources. I really enjoyed the interviews of Christians working in the industry. I also loved the perspective about the quality required. The moral of the story is, Hollywood doesn't care about your beliefs, they just want talent. Also, movies are about good stories, not preaching. When you tell the story well, you'll reach a much wider audience on a deeper level. Only negative to me (and the reason it gets 4 stars) is that the book can be quite repetitive. For instance, I think the Passion of the Christ is used as an example 15 times in the book. Great movie and great example, but I would have preferred a shorter book with less repetition. Still, a great read for Christians curious about the film industry.

Dr Ted Baehr's "How to Succeed in Hollywood (without losing your soul)" is bylined "A Field Guide for Christian Screenwriters, Actors, Producers, Directors and more..."It really is "A Field Guide for Everyone". For non-Christians, don't be put off by the title. Yes, it has its share of Biblical references but it is also packed cover to cover with surprising information and fascinating anecdotes from some of the industry's greatest. This is a big book in many ways. It's long, over 500 pages but Dr Baehr's style kept me engaged to the end. It comprehensively covers all aspects of film making from the art of the deal to the final distribution and everything in between, including tips for success and things to be wary of. For anyone contemplating entering the field of visual arts, be that film making or television, it is a must read. The book gives a professional overview of each step of the process with interviews and anecdotes from those who have succeeded. The compelling statistics on how Christian values in movies are what makes money in Hollywood clearly demonstrate the themes that young film makers should follow if they want to succeed. For someone who is just curious about what goes on in film making, the book is an interesting peek into the inside world. For example, ever wonder when you read the credits at the end of the movie what all those people do? Go to page 139 and you'll find out. If you want to dig deeper, then chapters in the book show what it takes to

succeed in those roles, with tips from the industry's best. After reading this you'll know all about movie making, even if you never do make one. This is a passionate and compelling book, written in an entertaining style. For Christian film makers, it provides inspiration and guidance. For those who are just curious about what motivates Hollywood and how film making is changing today, it is an eye opener. Ian Jones CEO International Entertainment Development Corporation

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