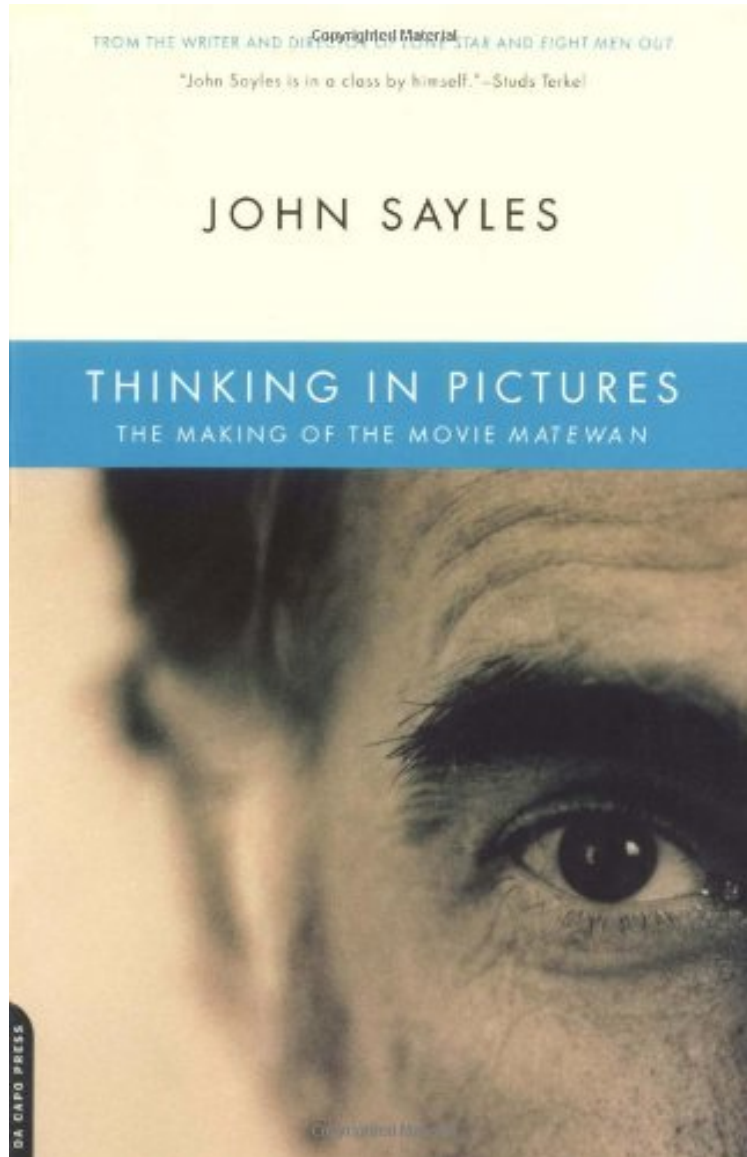


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Thinking In Pictures: The Making Of The Movie Matewan

John Sayles

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#662078 in Books John Sayles 2003-07-03 2003-07-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .88 x 6.00l, .99 #File Name: 0306812665336 pagesThinking In Pictures | File size: 64.Mb

John Sayles : Thinking In Pictures: The Making Of The Movie Matewan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thinking In Pictures: The Making Of The Movie Matewan:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Moving Film About a Coal Miners' Strike in 1920's West VirginiaBy NRL"Matewan" is a powerful film by John Sayles, depicting a coal-miner's strike in Mateway, West Virginia during the 1920's. The film stars Chris Cooper as a labor organizer who tries to bring together the native miners and groups of Italians and African-Americans brought in to break the strike, along with James Earl Jones as the

leader of the African-Americans. How these groups unite is a moving example of the best of labor's idealistic beginnings, and this impromptu union makes the bloody defeat by the Pinkertons even more tragic. The film is an affectionate but realistic portrait of Appalachian culture, and has some excellent singing by Hazel Dickens. The film is available on DVD, but in a poor transfer and badly in need of a better reissue. For those who already know and love the film, it's good to have Sayles' comments and shooting script available in this book.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Movies as History By HJSI teach American History and Film, my goal being how to get students to critically evaluate American history as portrayed by Hollywood. I have used John Sayles' "Matewan" about the West Virginia coal field wars and learned much from his discussion of how he created the film. It is possible to learn about history from films, but it must be done with a critical eye, and Sayles helps explain how one does that--as a film maker and as a viewer.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent analysis from a great creative mind By Charles H. Lein Superb breakdown of a terrific film - one of my top 25 favorites of all time, from one of my favorite directors!

What choices--creative, practical, and technical--make a movie what it is? Here a gifted writer and filmmaker takes us behind the camera and provides a full description of the movie-making process. When John Sayles turned from writing fiction to making movies, he did so with little help from Hollywood: *Return of the Secaucus Seven*, Sayles's first movie as director and writer, was produced with 60,000 of his own money. Many films later, he still works outside the studio system and guides every phase of his productions. Now Sayles has written an illuminating book about the complex choices that lie at the heart of every movie. Using the making of his film *Matewan* as an example, he offers chapters on screenwriting, directing, editing, sound, and more. Photographs, sketches, and the complete shooting script illustrate this engaging account of how Sayles's curiosity about a coal miners' strike in the town of Matewan, West Virginia, became a screenplay--and then a movie.

From Publishers Weekly A novelist, film writer and independent director explains how he conceived, wrote, casted, funded, directed, designed, shot and edited a movie about a coal miners' strike and massacre in West Virginia in the 1920s. Coinciding with the release of *Matewan*, Sayles's book provides the reader especially the student and would-be filmmaker with a step-by-step account of the thinking and planning that go into developing a story idea and transmuting it into a meaningful creation full of emotional impact. Coming from a writer of fiction, this book is not dryly technological but rather involving and exciting. It is enhanced by details of choice, pacing, and tension and by the inclusion of the full original film script. Photos. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Thanks to Sayles's honesty this is a rare gem of a book that actually delivers insight after insight about the process that transforms a script about the unionization of miners in the 1920s into a film. Sayles carefully leads the reader through the writing, shooting, and editing of his new independent film based upon the historical *Matewan Massacre*, explaining the coherent design philosophy that welds set design, lighting, and music to the film's key themes. Moreover, Sayles explains how the film's editing inventively aims to stretch viewers beyond genre expectations. As a result, reading the film's screenplay, which forms the second half of the book, is unusually rewarding. An exceptional book. Marshall Deutelbaum, English Dept., Purdue Univ., W. Lafayette, Ind. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. "John Sayles is in a class by himself." -- Studs Terkel