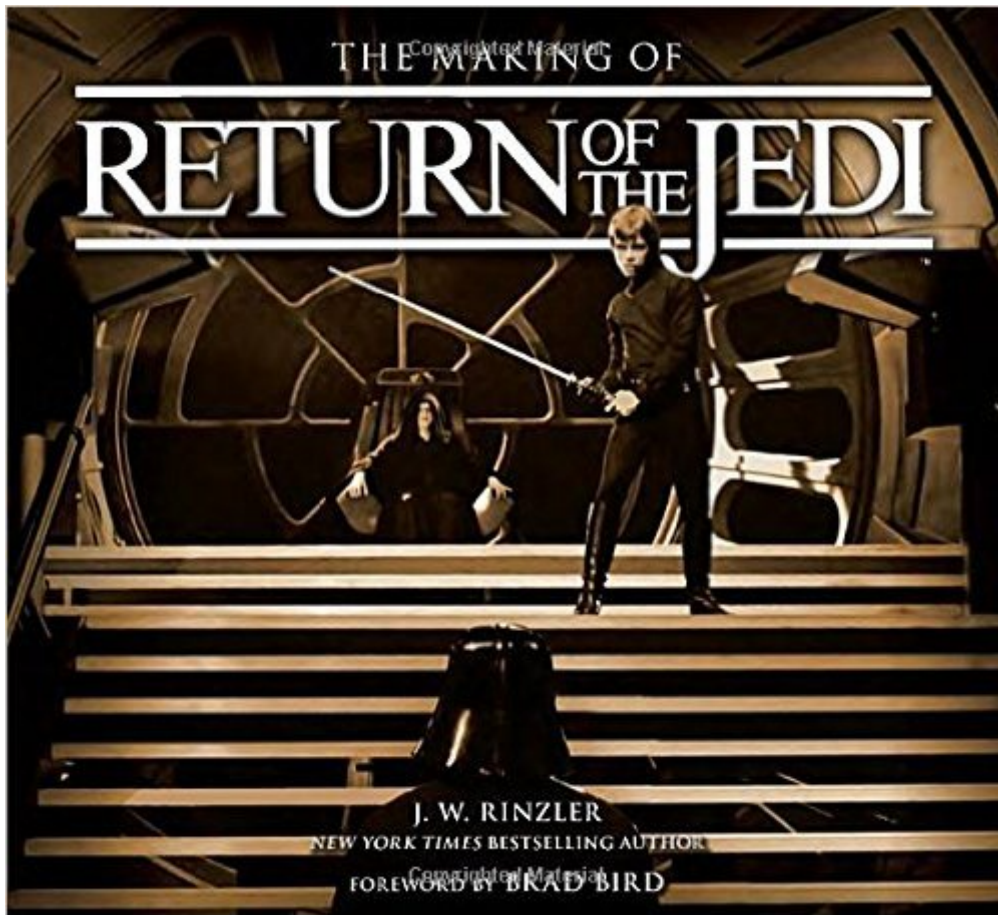


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# The Making Of Star Wars: Return Of The Jedi



## Synopsis

Just as *Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi* completed the most successful cinematic trilogy of its generation, perhaps of all time, this splendid thirtieth-anniversary tribute completes New York Times bestselling author J. W. Rinzler's trio of fascinating behind-the-scenes books celebrating George Lucas's classic films. Once again, the author's unprecedented access to the formidable Lucasfilm Archives has yielded a mother lode of extremely informative, vastly entertaining, and often unexpected stories, anecdotes, recollections, and revelations straight from the closely guarded set of a big-screen blockbuster in the making. Brimming with previously unpublished photos, production artwork, script excerpts, exclusive intel, vintage on-set interviews, and present-day commentary, *The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* chronicles how George Lucas and his crew of extroverted artists, misfits, and expert craftspeople roused themselves to great heights for a third time to create the next unforgettable chapter in one of the most beloved sagas of all time. Get up close to the action and feel like a studio insider as creator George Lucas, Oscar-nominated screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan, and director Richard Marquand huddle in a script conference to debate the destinies of iconic *Star Wars* characters, as well as plot twists and turns for the epic final showdown between the Rebel Alliance and the Empire. Artists and craftspeople at the groundbreaking Industrial Light & Magic facility top their own revolutionary innovations despite the infamous Black Friday with boundary-pushing new analog visual effects. A crack team of sculptors, puppeteers, actors, and monster-makers bring Jabba the Hutt and his cohorts to startling, slobbering life from the inside out. A Who's Who of heavyweight directors from such films as *Superman*, *Gremlins*, *Halloween*, *Dune*, *Scanners*, and *Time Bandits* are considered for the coveted job of bringing a new *Star Wars* adventure to the silver screen. Actors and crew race to the finish line at Elstree Studios, in a fiery desert, and beneath the trees of a dense redwood forest before money runs out to answer the questions that audiences had waited three years to find out: Is Darth Vader really Luke's father, who is the other and who or what is the Emperor? *Star Wars* stars from both sides of the camera including Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew, David Prowse, Alec Guinness, director Richard Marquand, producer Howard Kazanjian, Ralph McQuarrie, Joe Johnston, Dennis Muren, Phil Tippett, and mastermind George Lucas weigh in with candid insights on everything from technical challenges, character design, Ewoks, the Empire's galactic city planet, and the ultimate challenge of bringing the phenomenal space fantasy to a dramatic close. *The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* gives a spectacular subject its just due, with more than five hundred images and many, many new interviews. Praise for *The*

Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi — Just like Rinzler's 2010 volume about Empire Strikes Back, The Making of Star Wars: The Return of the Jedi is an indispensable volume that will add tons of insight to your appreciation of George Lucas's Original Trilogy. Rinzler has gone through masses of production documents at Lucasfilm and interviewed tons of people, and come up with a portrait of Lucas struggling to find a fitting ending to his ambitious, heroic saga.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi by J.W. Rinzler is truly an impressive book to behold. Within the 372 pages, the story of how Return of the Jedi was made is fully laid out in a wonderful format that's thoroughly engaging. The book covers the entire process, from securing the funding for preproduction to the response of critics and fans after its release. There are summaries and passages from the early drafts of the scripts, behind the scenes stories from the actors and special effects artists, and a wide array of pictures and concept art throughout the book. If you're a fan of the films, this is definitely a must read. As a long time fan of Star Wars, I found this book to be very surprising. I haven't read the other books in the 'Making of' series, so this was my first exposure to J.W. Rinzler's chronicling of the films. With non-fiction books like this, it can be hit and miss with the subject matter. Sometimes it can be too dry and weighed down with facts. In The Making of Star Wars: Return of the Jedi, that doesn't happen. Every paragraph in the book has some fun factoid that keeps things interesting. There was a ton of information I did not know. For instance, ROTJ producer Howard Kazanjian was second assistant director to one of my favorite westerns The Wild

Bunch. Another fun aside was that the idea for the Ewoks (initially called Ewaks) was born from George Lucas' work on Apocalypse Now and his desire to have primitives defeating a technologically advanced force. In fact the core idea for ROTJ was based on that with Jabba, Tatooine and Han all being afterthoughts. Other cool notes were presented in early drafts of the script where Obi-Wan and Yoda don't come back as Force ghosts but actually come back to life fully in the flesh.

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