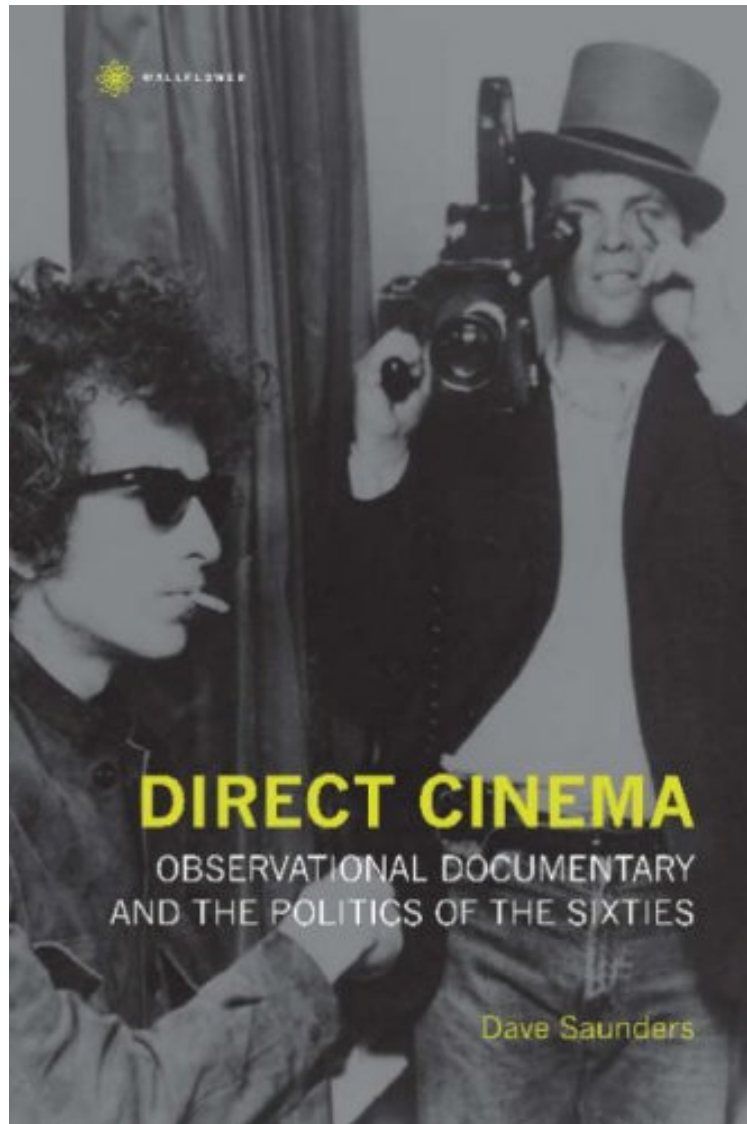


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## Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties (Nonfictions)

*Dave Saunders*

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Direct Cinema is the first comprehensive study of the "direct cinema" movement of 1960s America. Through the inquisitiveness of filmmakers such as Robert Drew, D.A. Pennebaker, and Frederick Wiseman and predicated on innovations such as portable cameras and synchronized sound, direct cinema intimately documented presidential campaigns through the revelers of Woodstock and the dispossessed subjects of Wiseman's "reality fictions". This volume recovers these vastly influential yet politically underappreciated films, suggesting they represented a resurgence of America's home-grown philosophical tradition inextricably bound up in the artistic and political impulses of the 1960s.

*Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties* offers a meticulously researched study of a significant period in the history of North American documentary film. Earlier studies of direct cinema have mostly focused on the technological developments that were prerequisite to the production of this kind of film. The detailed reading of a selection of the better-known films, informed by the cultural and political history of their epoch, is a project that has not previously been undertaken. This volume demonstrates that the social and political contexts upon which observational documentaries drew were every bit as important as in the genesis of this sub-genre. Presented with coherence, clarity and lan, there is much original work here that fills a significant gap in the study of cinema and television (John Izod., Stirling Media Research Institute )  
About the Author Dave Saunders is a visiting tutor at the Department of Media Arts at Royal Holloway, University of London.