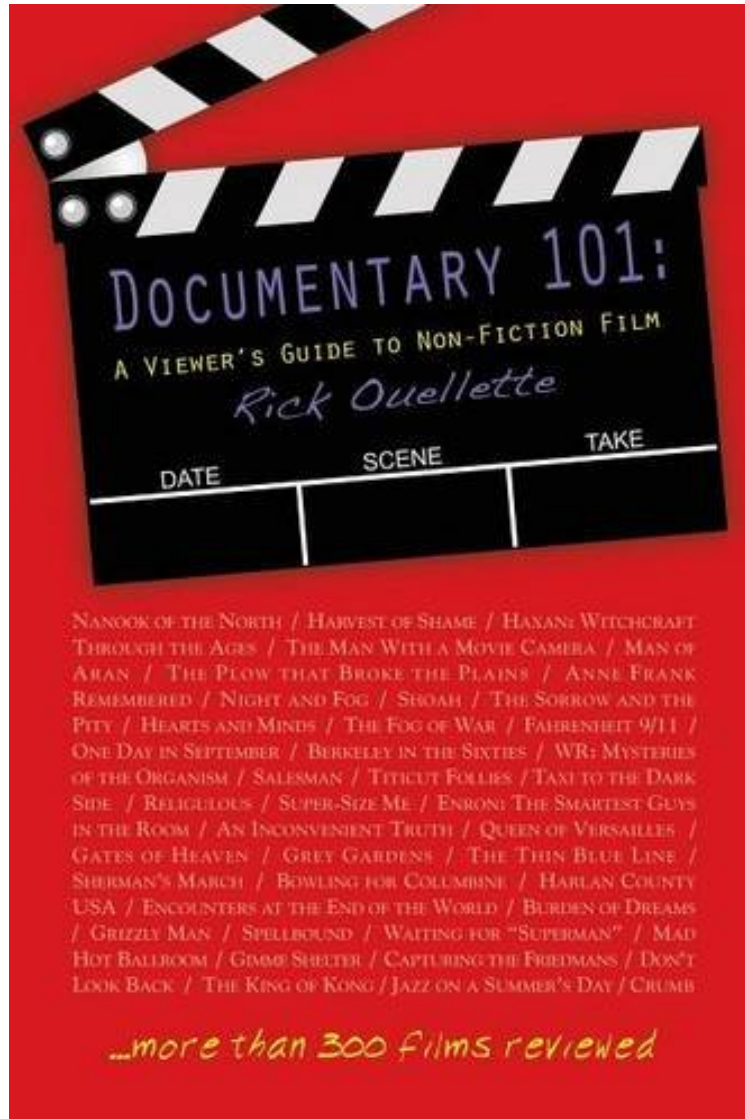


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## Documentary 101: A Viewer's Guide to Non-Fiction Film

*Rick Ouellette*

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**Rick Ouellette : Documentary 101: A Viewer's Guide to Non-Fiction Film** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Documentary 101: A Viewer's Guide to Non-Fiction Film:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent guide to non-fiction films of the past 100 years By Diane M. Nunziato Excellent guide to non-fiction films of the past 100 years. Writing by Rick Ouellette is intelligent and very readable. Great to read through completely or to use as a reference book on documentaries. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive guide to documentary films satisfies on many levels By

Bebbington5 Author Rick Ouellette has done an outstanding job with this consistently readable Viewer's Guide to Documentary Films. As a long time fan of documentaries, it is always surprising to me that (outside of academia) comparatively little has been written about them as a distinct genre of film. Ouellette, with a background in photography and film production as well as writing for publications like The Boston Phoenix, seems to be the first author out there who's written any sort of comprehensive survey; and the results are impressive. From the Lumiere Brothers' fifty second "actualities" of 1895, (priceless slices of Victorian life recorded on camera for the first time ever), to the 570 minutes of Claude Lanzmann's 1985 downer masterpiece Shoah, documentaries come in a dizzying array of shapes, sizes and topics. What most impressed me about Documentary 101 was the clear and comprehensive chapter organization. A major thematic documentary is introduced and presented with a comprehensive review, and then other films of the same ilk are reviewed in smaller, bite-sized chunks. For example, the cutting edge Roman Polanski, Wanted and Desired (a film that will leave a viewer either more impressed with the diminutive Polish maestro or creeped out for life by him) is given a full scale three page review. Other, thematically similar docs, such as Stanley Kubrik; a Life in Pictures and A Decade Under the Influence have short reviews in the same section. It's a great way to discover docs you've never heard of, written by someone with an obvious admiration for the personal and idiosyncratic style of film making documentaries represent. Documentary 101 would be a great book for someone who wanted to learn about documentary film, as well as a delight for those who have actively followed the genre. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "Elicited from Life Itself" By James Sullivan As Rick Ouellette notes in his comprehensive survey of the great documentary films, the genre has earned a powerful voice in the culture wars of recent decades. And for every polemic about the First Amendment, then Second Amendment, war, religion or big business, there's a joyful slice of life a "March of the Penguins," "Man on Wire" or "Harvard Beats Yale 29-29." Documentary covers everything under the sun, and it's all brought to light in the author's illuminating "viewer's guide," the first of its kind.

In the 21st century, documentary films are more popular than ever, while carrying on a venerable artistic tradition that emphasizes humanism and social advocacy. DOCUMENTARY 101 is a first-ever anthology of this crucial cinematic field, covering the entire spectrum of non-fiction film with entries on over 300 titles from 1895 to 2012. There are 101 full-length reviews of documentaries chosen for their aesthetic prominence and/or historical significance, followed by briefer entries on related titles.