



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

By 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.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

*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 élan, there is much original work here that fills a significant gap in the study of cinema and television.

(John Izod, Stirling Media Research Institute)

This trenchant study challenges the myths that have come to surround American cinema verite. Instead of rehashing truisms about shaky, hand-held camera work and the movement's fascination with celebrities and eccentric characters, this volume sheds light on the social and political commitment in these so-called 'non-issue' films. Addressing the major filmmakers and canonical works in a single text, this scholarly and readable book will make a particularly good teaching tool.

(Thomas Cohen, Rhodes College)

This authoritative book, a worthy entry in Wallflower Press's indispensable new Nonfictions series, seamlessly combines elegant and insightful close readings of key films of the direct cinema movement of the 1960s with illuminating analyses of their shifting political and cultural contexts... It emerges, in its author's words, as engaging in 'a substantial and compelling dialogue with America, about America, in an epoch beset and defined by upheaval.'

(William Rothman, University of Miami)

To understand documentary film and television today, you have to know the history of American documentary in the 1960s. *Direct Cinema* establishes this history and demonstrates to readers the value of cultural context. It is a rich and well-researched introduction to one of the decade's most important documentary movements, and covers classics of the genre that every cinephile, film student and documentary maker should know.

(Jonathan Kahana, New York University)

#### About the Author

Dave Saunders is a visiting tutor at the Department of Media Arts at Royal Holloway, University of London.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Stacee Stern:**

This Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties (Nonfictions) book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is actually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties (Nonfictions) without we know teach the one who studying it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties (Nonfictions) can bring when you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties (Nonfictions) having very good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Roger Patrick:**

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties (Nonfictions) it is very good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

#### **Sarah McClain:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always aim to and must have the free time or they will get great deal of stress from both day to day life and work. So , if we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties (Nonfictions).

#### **Terry Hollis:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Direct Cinema: Observational Documentary and the Politics of the Sixties (Nonfictions), you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What?

Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

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