

**Woody Woodhall**

■ ■ ■ DIGITAL FILMMAKER SERIES

# AUDIO PRODUCTION AND POSTPRODUCTION

CD INCLUDED!



# AUDIO PRODUCTION AND POSTPRODUCTION

Woody Woodhall, CAS



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# PREFACE

Sound for film and television is a complex and exacting craft. There are numerous skills involved in recording sound well, editing those recordings properly, and then mixing them into a seamless soundtrack. Despite the amazing capability that digital technology provides today's filmmaker, the ultimate craft of movie-making remains the same. The shots need to be in focus, the lighting needs to be defined, and the sound recordings need to be free from distortion and noise.

The advances in computer and digital filmmaking equipment make the ability to create high-quality, professional movies available to just about anyone. But owning a top-of-the-line camera and a computer editing system does not guarantee that your movies will be premiering at the local Cineplex. Making movies is a task that requires a number of demanding skill sets.

This book is meant for anyone—from beginning digital filmmakers to seasoned producers—seeking a greater understanding of how to create sound for film. The field of sound changes constantly with the introduction of new technology, but its foundation remains as old as filmmaking itself. Everyone involved in the filmmaking process can benefit from a better knowledge of the techniques, concepts, and practices outlined here. This text has two essential parts: The first focuses on the tools and techniques for excellent recordings, and the second discusses the tools, concepts, and techniques necessary to edit and mix those sounds into a cohesive whole.

I wrote this book using knowledge gained from years of working in the film and television industry in Hollywood, California. A trained musician, I gravitated toward sound as I moved from film to film and show to show. In time I began using my mixing skills from music to mix live television programs. I started by mixing news programming and then moved on to mixing live game shows and talk shows. Finally, I embraced postproduction audio as a career path. One

thing I learned is that few professionals working in the business have a strong understanding of the sound side of production and postproduction.

I have addressed the major points of the sound process, from the tools, to recording, to the techniques for editing and mixing. I have also created an extensive glossary for sound-specific terms. Use the glossary often to familiarize yourself with the definitions and explanations of sound for filmmaking. It is a valuable resource to learn the language used in creating soundtracks for film and television. The accompanying CD provides numerous audio examples of the concepts.

Through the ideas expressed in this book, I hope to convey the best practices to elevate the sound in your digital filmmaking projects. Sound is a fascinating and important art, and the contribution of sound for film is immeasurable to the final project. I invite you to read the chapters, complete the exercises, and apply these concepts to your own movies. Learn to hear the world around you, and take the same care with the sound that you do with the picture. Tell stories that sound as good as they look. I'll see you at the movies.



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