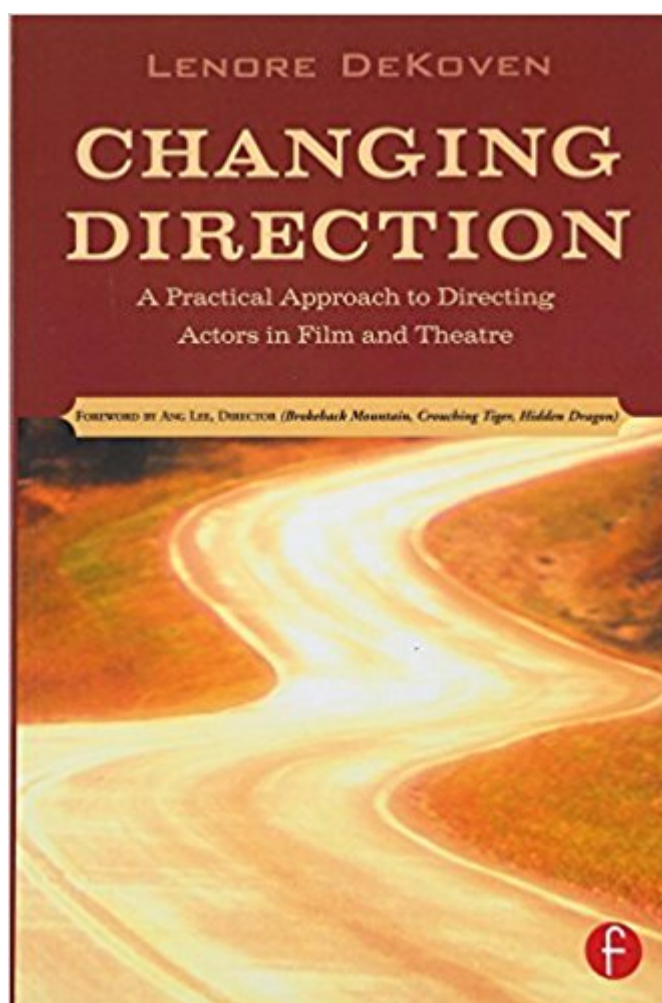


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# Changing Direction: A Practical Approach To Directing Actors In Film And Theatre: Foreword By Ang Lee



## Synopsis

The approach presented in this book, honed after years of on-set experience and from teaching at UCLA, NYU, and Columbia, and endorsed by many in the industry, including director Ang Lee (Brokeback Mountain and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon) and producer/actor Edward Asner, aims to provide a helpful reference and resource for directors and actors alike. It combines underlying theory with dozens of exercises designed to reveal the actor's craft. There is material on constructing the throughline, analyzing the script, character needs; the casting and rehearsal processes, film vs. theater procedures as well as the actor and the camera. Distilling difficult concepts and a complex task to their simplest form, the author explains how to accurately capture and portray human behavior. The author's discussion of creative problems she has encountered or anticipated after years of experience, and her suggested solutions and exercises, are immediately useful. Additionally, hear what the actors have to say in excerpts from interviews with acclaimed actors such as Meryl Streep, Denzel Washington, Glenn Close, Robert Redford, Christopher Walken, Julianne Moore, and Michael Douglas (to name a few) who discuss their work with directors, what inspires them, and what they really want from the director.

## Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Focal Press; 1 edition (February 9, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0240806646

ISBN-13: 978-0240806648

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.5 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #378,559 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #149 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Direction & Production #499 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Movies > Video > Direction & Production #598 in Books > Humor &

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## Customer Reviews

"It is a difficult book to describe, but a fascinating one to read - essentially the author manages to explain how a director must capture and portray human behaviour." - Image Technology  
"The essence of Lenore's distinctive methods, developed over many years, can be found in the pages of

this excellent, clearly written book." -Ang Lee, Director, Brokeback Mountain, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

Lenore DeKoven says in her introduction to her book, Changing Direction, that 'everyone wants to be in show business'. Well I am, but I've never wanted to direct. After reading Lenore's book, I may reconsider my career choice." -Edward Asner, Actor/Producer

"I was one of the many people who over the years, asked Lenore to write her book, and finally she has. It's a thrill to read, as well as a reminder of her great gift -- her deep understanding of drama, directing, actors, everyday life, and most importantly her wealth of experience and huge heart. I will draw from this every time I work."--Kimberly Peirce, writer/director of Boys Don't Cry, Stop-Loss, student of Lenore's

Lenore DeKoven has written a great book for the director searching for practical advice on the techniques of directing actors. Her work as a teacher has already affected a generation of young filmmakers, including Kim Peirce (Boys Don't Cry). One would be hard-pressed to find a more comprehensive and clear approach to working with actors."--Bette Gordon, Director and Acting Chair of Film Division, School of the Arts, Columbia University

"This book is much needed on the shelves for students and individuals interested in directing actors for film and theatre. Very few books offer this approach with such specific and practical steps laid out in detail, step by step."

-Sheldon Schiffer, Georgia State University

Written and endorsed by well-known theater and film professionals who know how well this unique, time-tested approach works!

I have always been fascinated by a breathtaking emotional performance on film or on stage. I decided one day to take the leap of faith and venture into the world of a Motion Picture Film Director a few years ago. Little did I know that it's not as easy as it seems. There is actually a craft or an art form. I had the opportunity to realize my mistakes as a Director on my short film 2 years ago. The only problem was now that I identified the issue. I had to bring the attention to it. Where and What book could teach me an approach or short hand form of communication to speak with my actors and help me bring out the performance I want in them. Well my friends Your journey is over. The name of the book is called " Changing Direction " by Lenore DeKoven. GO BUY THIS BOOK NOW !!After reading this book it has made my "Dreams become a reality". I am a firm believer that if you are honest with your self and realize your weakness in what ever it is that you do then Life will reward you with the answers. This is the answer you need to help you on your journey as Film/Theater Director. I know what you maybe thinking there are many books out there. why should I purchase this one ? The only answer I can give you is " Lenore DeKoven's approach works all the

time, A technique that really works. She gives you examples, exercises & It is a very well paced and structured book. It has brought my game as a Director to a whole other level.

Changing Direction is a great intro to the Directing world for anyone unfamiliar with just what a director does. Describing the many "hats" the director needs to wear, this book guides you from the day you first get the script, until it's "in the can". I work in a "one man show" broadcast studio, producing educational-type videos. I have never been to film school, so as a self-taught "everything-guy", this book allowed me to have an insight into an area of production that I needed help with. Anyone trying to make sense of this multi-faceted job is definitely advised to break this book open. You should not try to read cover-to-cover in one sitting: you'll miss too much, if you do! And believe me, you don't WANT to miss anything!

Wow, I am an aspiring director and this is one of the few books that actually teach you about directing, but most of all solving a problem with actors.

The perfect supplemental guide; confirming your own instincts and providing tangible formulaic tools to apply effective creative balance to any show.

I didn't know what to expect, but this wasn't it. This is more about the nuts and bolts of directing, but not about how to be great director versus a mediocre one. If you don't get the nuts and bolts reasonably right, you really won't be directing anything but traffic. With that said, if you already know about directing, then this will help you. I don't even know what directing is, so I need an introduction to it, and what it is a director tries to do

Lenore DeKoven, doyenne of Columbia University's graduate film department has here, in "Changing Directions," documented the pragmatic approach to film direction that she has passed onto generations of film students. This year's Best Director, Ang Lee, figures prominently amongst her many successful disciples and he has provided a rather inspiring introduction to both the book and to the challenges of film directing. Suffice it to say, this work is essential reading and reference for the dedicated filmmaker and it belongs on the shelf alongside other nuts-and-bolts film books like Robert McKee's "Story" and Mascelli's "The Five C's of Cinematography." Written in no-nonsense prose, DeKoven teaches a directorial process that begins by articulating a "through-line" - a concise statement that captures a director's interpretation of the script. These critical 'one-or-two-sentences'

serve as a reference point against which all the subsequent production decisions can be made, from design to casting. She then takes you onto the set and details how the director translates the "through-line" into language that will help the actors build their performances. DeKoven's best text is saved for a thorough and practical discussion of this relationship between actor and director. The best, most useful, least mysterious book on directing I have ever read.

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