

A--Z Guide to Film Production Terms

By Patricia Thompson

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VALUABLE AND WITTY GLOSSARY

A 4" x 5" (10 x 12.5 cm) handy, pocket-size soft booklet that lists just about every phrase, slang expression, title and job used on and around a film set. Many are familiar, but some are weird and wonderful, and peculiar to the insular world of the movies.

For example, the "Abby Singer Shot" is named after a real person, as are "Groucho" (a crouching walk) and "Jack Lord" -- a 50mm lens ("5-0" -- get it...?). Western movies can be Dusters, Horse Operas, Oaters; "Fernie" and "Futz" appear suspicious but are, respectively, an all-purpose protective furniture pad, and altering a dialogue track to make it sound like a voice coming over the telephone or radio. There's a whole range of oddities that catch the eye -- gak, pork chop, pretties, rumble pot -- and how about "Spaghetti with pizza on the side"? And the ignoble "Casting Couch" and "Cutting Room Floor" are acknowledged.

Tim Moshansky has done a great job and his descriptive comments are laced with sly wit. He gracefully acknowledges the help of many craftspeople, who understand and use the terms in everyday work, in a jolly Foreword which ends with special thanks to his mother "the lovely Lavina Karvonen"!

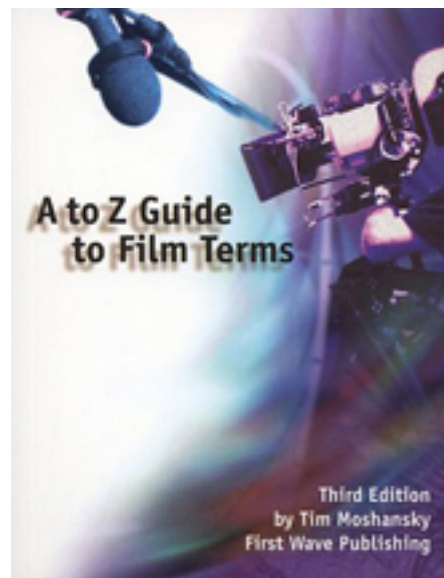


Figure 1: **TITLE:** *A--Z GUIDE TO FILM PRODUCTION TERMS* (2nd ed.) ¶ **BY:** Tim Moshansky ¶ **PUBLISHER:** First Wave Productions (Vancouver) ¶ **YEAR:** 2002 ¶ **PAGES:** 55pp ¶ **ISBN:** 0-9680702-0-5 ¶ **PRICE:** CAD 7.95 (paper)

Author Information

Patricia THOMPSON (d. 1999) was Publisher and Editor of *Film Canada Yearbook* and Canadian Editor for the *International Motion Picture Almanac* and the *International Television and Video Almanac* (Quigley, NY). She was reviewing Canadian short films for several decades.