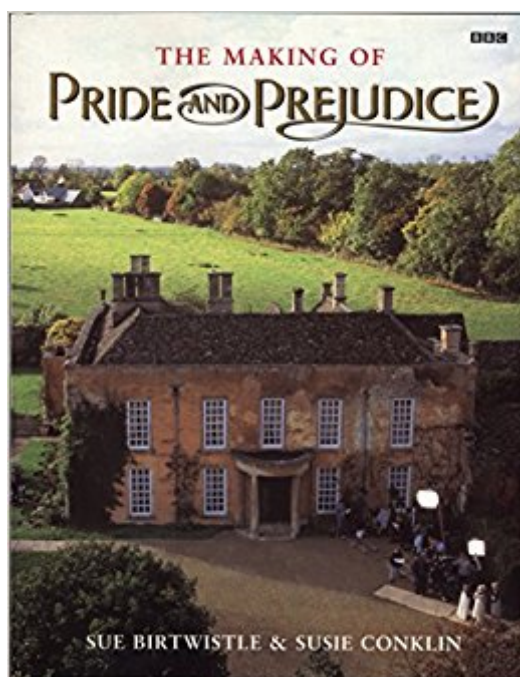


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The Making Of Pride And Prejudice (BBC)



Synopsis

The Making of Pride and Prejudice reveals in compelling detail how Jane Austen's classic novel was transformed into the stunning television drama starring Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle. It vividly brings to life every stage of production of this sumptuous series.

Book Information

Series: BBC

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; TV Tie in Ed edition (August 26, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 014025157X

ISBN-13: 978-0140251579

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.4 x 9.7 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 78 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #494,406 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Movies > Adaptations #132 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television >

Direction & Production #402 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Shows

Customer Reviews

Sue Birtwistle is the former director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre in Education Company in Edinburgh and founding director of the Nottingham Playhouse Roundabout Company. Susie Conklin is currently a drama script associate at Granada Television.

I can't begin to say how much I enjoyed reading this book. I have seen the BBC series several times and I enjoyed the brief video at the end that gave a hint about the process of production, but this is so much more in depth and I was never bored because I never imagined how much work and how many factors have to be considered in order to produce a film project--particularly one as excellent as this one turned out to be. It isn't one of those books where your interest will be captured by the photos and the captions and you'll just browse the text. With the possible exception of the pages that showed a typical day's scheduled activities, every other page is fascinating. I only wish the photos had been a little larger. For some group pictures I had to take out a magnifying glass to identify the faces.

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed Sue Birtwistle's production of *Pride & Prejudice* and wanted to know more about it. This book is a very excellent book about behind the scenes and in particular about the making of *Pride & Prejudice*. I never realized all the work that goes into a movie. I'm glad this is a book instead of a video, because they packed a lot of info into the book which couldn't have been covered in a 30 minute video production. If you enjoyed the production, you'll also enjoy the book. And, don't worry, it didn't spoil the screenplay for me (for instance, I didn't mind knowing trivial facts about the filming--such as the fact that sometimes the food-dishes were three days old and smelly!). I think I'm even more amazed at how well P&P was done after knowing more behind the scenes information. I gave the book 4 stars, instead of 5, because I thought the book was a little choppy. There seems to be a general flow from section to the next, but there was little transition. I think the writing could have been a little more polished in places. But, overall it's very good. And it's packed full of pictures! We found ourselves wanting to know more!

If you are like me and can quote the series, you will love this book. All the details of how this came to be.

Was hoping for more behind the scenes information and set photos.

A great book about the series. A really good find!

It was very much what I hoped it would be - a detailed explanation of how the film got made. I learned a lot about such things as seeking out the locations, handling the many background actors, a usual day on the set, and so on. It's made me look at other films with a more analytical eye. There's one long interview with Colin Firth, which was interesting, and several quite brief ones with other actors. All excellent. More on the show-biz side of, obviously, than discussing the Jane Austen-ness. But that was what I wanted.

2003's "The Making of *Pride and Prejudice*" is a peek behind the scenes at the transformation of Jane Austen's classic romance novel into the 1995 BBC television production, a classic in its own right. Sue Birtwistle and Susie Conklin walk the reader through the entire process, from selling the idea to a reluctant studio, to Andrew Davies' superb adaptation of the novel into six TV episodes, through casting, preproduction, shooting, and finally postproduction. The book is filled with comments from the workers on both sides of the camera, and illustrated with fascinating set

photography. Recreating the 19th Century required extensive research into such mundane matters as period costumes, hairstyles, drapery patterns, furniture, and music and dance. Months of pre-production paid off in an authentic look, at the cost of daily two-hour costume and make-up sessions for the actors and nightly refreshing of sets. Minor challenges included the delicate task of keeping food presentable for the three day shoot of the Netherfield supper party. Location shooting, even in a country rich with old homes, required patient negotiation with owners over the restoration of house and grounds to a 19th century appearance. The expenses of production required shooting by location vice chronological order; Colin Firth notes his very first scene was Darcy's marriage proposal to Elizabeth. Casting presented its own challenges for such a popular story. The book shares the concerns of the actors, along with some interesting before and after make-up portraits. A highlight is an extended interview with Colin Firth on the challenges of the role of Mr. Darcy. Jennifer Ehle adds her own comments on the grueling five month shooting schedule, which required her presence on set for all but five days. "The Making of Pride and Prejudice" will be equally fascinating to dedicated fans of the BBC television version and those interested in the actual details of production. This book is very highly recommended to both audiences.

First, I have to say that I have NEVER bought a "Behind the Scenes" book on ANY movie. I stumbled across "The Making of Pride and Prejudice" on . Sue Birtwistle's adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice" IS probably my favorite movie of all time, but the previous reviews on convinced me that I would like the book as well. If you truly enjoyed the movie, I hope that you will take a chance and read, "The Making of Pride and Prejudice" by Sue Birtwistle and Susie Conklin - even if you don't normally read this type of book. It is FASCINATING. It isn't just all the wonderful pictures (and how DIFFERENT the actors looked!); it is that this book methodically explains the concept behind the movie, the writing, the casting, the houses ("Pemberley" is actually at Lyme Park), the costumes, the wigs (Jennifer Ehle is a BLONDE!) and so many more interesting facts. I was particularly amazed that Colin Firth originally TURNED DOWN the role of Darcy - because he didn't feel that he could do justice to the part. (Most of us can't imagine ANYONE except Firth playing the role!) Sue Birtwistle had to convince him to do the part. (And he was so nervous that he was physically ill initially.) This is a terrific book, which chronicles the process of making a truly magnificent movie.

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