



The Making of Life of Pi: A Film, a Journey

By Jean-Christophe Castelli

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The 3-D motion picture version of Yann Martel's Man Booker Prize-winning bestseller *Life of Pi* is the most ambitious film project to date from Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*; *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*). *The Making of Life of Pi: A Film, A Journey* is a beautifully illustrated, graphically compelling, behind-the-scenes look at the creation of a film that is destined to be a classic. Written by John Christophe-Castelli, with a foreword by Yann Martel and an introduction by Ang Lee, *The Making of Life of Pi* is a must-have volume for every true film buff, offering entertaining text and breathtaking visuals, while providing a fascinating close-up look at the unique approach to filmmaking of one of today's most influential directors.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

Diversely illustrated with 275 photographs and illustrations, *The Making of Life of Pi* tells the inside story of how renowned Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee brought Yann Martel's international bestseller to life as a 3-D film.

With a rich, entertaining text and a wide variety of facts, anecdotes, visual portfolios, and sidebars sure to delight readers of all ages, *The Making of Life of Pi* follows the making of the film from pre-production through final cut. Of course, you'll meet Suraj Sharma, the sixteen-year-old unknown Indian high-school student who won the part of Pi although he had no acting experience and didn't even know how to swim—yet in the end performed all of his own stunts. You'll learn about the massive wave tank, custom-built for the film that replicated a vast, stormy ocean in all its moods, thanks to a complex and specially devised menu of wave and wind combinations, some really powerful machinery, and tons of water. You'll get to look inside the fifty-page fully illustrated "survival guide" that shipwreck survivor Steven Callahan created for Pi to consult on his raft. And you'll read about King, Themis, Minh, and Jonas, the four Bengal tigers used in the film—and discover how visual effects were able to create a seamless 3-D image of the tiger Richard Parker.

A foreword by Yann Martel, an introduction by Ang Lee, and an incredible range of visual materials—fine art, vintage archival imagery, and commissioned portfolios by photographer Mary Ellen Mark and artist Alexis Rockman—supplement the film's storyboards, sketches, and stills, rounding out this highly experiential book for lovers of the novel and film viewers alike.

About the Author

Jean-Christophe Castelli worked as a magazine editor and freelance writer, publishing articles in *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, and *Filmmaker*, before moving into film. For seven years, he was the story editor at the independent production company Good Machine. There he developed many film projects and began a long working relationship with Ang Lee, first with the cultural research on *The Ice Storm* (1997), followed by the story development of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000). While pursuing his own writing projects, Castelli has continued to do development and research for Lee, most recently as associate producer on *Life of Pi* (2012). He lives in New York City with his wife and twin sons.

Users Review

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