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The Making Of Stanley Kubrick's '2001: A Space Odyssey'



Synopsis

Hello, HAL On the set of 2001: A Space Odyssey Get closer than ever to the movie that changed the movies. This behind-the-scenes spectacular of 2001: Space Odyssey sheds light on the lead actors, senior production designers, special-effects experts and masterminds of Stanley Kubrick and Arthur C. Clarke, who together revolutionized science fiction and the art of cinema. Previously available as part of the multi-volume and instant sell-out Collector's Edition, this comprehensive visual record includes on and off set photographs, pre-production paintings, and conceptual designs from the Kubrick archives. With numerous fold-outs, these dazzling images offer insight both into Kubrick's meticulous directorial methods, and into the mysteries and magnetism of a film at once vast in scope and intricate in its exploration of our relationship to technology. Written and researched over several years by the outer space, special effects, and technology journalist Piers Bizony, this compendium is both an exhaustive labour of love and a monument to a masterpiece of 20th century culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Piers Bizony is a science and technology writer. His publications include Atom, The Man Who Ran the Moon, Starman, and 2001: Filming the Future. M/M (Paris) is an art and design partnership consisting of Mathias Augustyniak and Michael Amzalag. Their portfolio includes art direction and collaborations with Björk, Balenciaga, and Inez van Lamsweerde & Vinoodh Matadin, as well as with magazines including Vogue Paris, Interview, and Purple Fashion.

This is a sad moment. I can't sugar coat it. This volume is for the most part a picture book filled with illustrations and photographs, many which I had never seen (which is saying something, as I am well studied in 2001: a space odyssey). BRILLIANT research and lovely photos. This review will focus on this aspect of the book. The book comes in a rather astounding format... and as 6.9x15x1.6... clearly meant to resemble the monolith and its famous 1:4:9 ratio. And I thought, "Brilliant... artful and will allow the wide Cinemascope imagery (at 2.21:1 or 2.35:1)... requiring that the book be held wide left to right to resemble a cinema screen. In a decision that will go down in book history as unfathomably stupid, the book is instead "broken" and hinged sitting tall. It feels much like reading a double tall version of a newspaper. This format is fine for reading the accompanying text. In what will go down as one of the most horrific decisions in book making history... these amazing and rare photos and illustrations are force fit into pages that have a useable space of about 6 inches wide, and 14 inches tall. This makes presentation of these glorious visuals an impossible task... either the images have to be shrunk to postcard size... or, and this is almost criminal... the image must be split, down the center, across the book spine. OH. MY. GOD. The CENTER of these amazing images... hopelessly lost in the curving folds between adjacent pages. (see accompanying photos to this review). These images might have been a gold mine for scale model references... or just appreciated for their historical value or beauty... but are now marred by being split in two. In an apparent effort to deal with this madness, there are many fold out pages, but even these have a crease, and the printing ink on my copy was not happy to remain on the paper at these folds... leaving a white line at the crease. Given we are dealing with a visual film of space, white lines cutting vertically through black are somewhat noticeable! To top it off, the paper seems to be of questionable quality. Generally, coffee table books like these are on heavy high gloss paper, but this paper is decidedly dull and brings a lifeless quality to the images. I wish I had better news about this book. If you can stand to have your heart crushed by how these astounding and rare images are defiled, then I suppose you might consider adding this title to your library. This book screams loudly for another edition... reformatted, in an orientation and aspect fitting to the heart of the work: the visual material.

It seems that someone is setting up multiple "names" so they can file reviews once a month with 5 stars, titled "Five Stars" each time. At least I assume so; they're identical, and fall in a narrow time window. Without them this book would have a far lower rating. I bought it without doing my usual reading of reviews, so I guess it's my fault that I was so severely disappointed in the book, but

everything that's been said about its ridiculous formatting and infuriating placement of images across pages rather than rotating to fit a single page is true. My specific goal was to find the unique info on the Pan Am Orion clipper that I'd been told was here, but those photos were split across pages so there's nothing useful I can gain without cutting the spine off the book, extracting the pages I need, and doing a hi-res scan so I can digitally put the two halves together. To those questioning whether other reviewers have been too unkind, and who instead want to focus on the richness of the material, consider this: Fold-outs are used to accommodate minor characters' headshots in good order, but Dr Heywood Floyd's is split across pages, so the middle of his face disappears down the crease. And similar things abound throughout the book. What a severe disappointment after I'd been so excited by the promised content! And I see no way to return the book; it's not "defective" or "damaged" or any of the other categories gives you to justify sending it back, it's just a bad product. No matter how good the content itself may be, it's presented so poorly as to be useless for the purposes for which I ordered it.

>> The photo below shows how inexcusably cheap the production quality of this book is.>> The top photo is a side view of this book after sitting on my coffee table in normal heat and humidity for just over two weeks with occasional browsing (you can see the difficulty of folding back the multiple fold out pages).>> The bottom photo shows a side view of The Civil War by Geoffrey Ward (with Ken Burns), which is currently about the same price in hardcover on . The copy in my photo is over 25 YEARS OLD. I bought it USED and have since used it even more. That how a quality book ages.>> This book is NOT a quality book meant to last; it's dirt cheap by comparison. My review follows: If you remade the "The Producers" as play about the publishing industry, you would have Gene Wilder and Zero Mostel cook up the following plan to publish a foolproof flop: 1. Choose a subject that lends itself to stunning widescreen visuals and long essays. 2. Publish it in a super-thin portrait format, making it so tall and so thin that it requires multiple fold-out pages just to show a square image. 3. Source a cheap-quality paper that creases miserably when folded. 4. Problem: even if the format destroys the visuals people still might buy the book for the essays. After all, newspapers also feature long articles in thin columns on cheap paper. 5. Solution: Specify a cheap, overglued binding that can't even come close to laying flat. So if anyone tries to read the essays they have to look at them sideways or break the binding to lay them flat. Once you've got all that done, the plan will be foolproof, even if you accidentally include brilliant essays and gorgeous never-before-seen photos, so just wait for the reviews to come in and book your flight to Rio!

Incredible content but the shape gives harder access to the inserts. I echo the the reviews. It's quite a labor to hold such a heavy book and continually open the folded inserts. Please revise the next edition to be a full or larger (Wide) format book.....

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