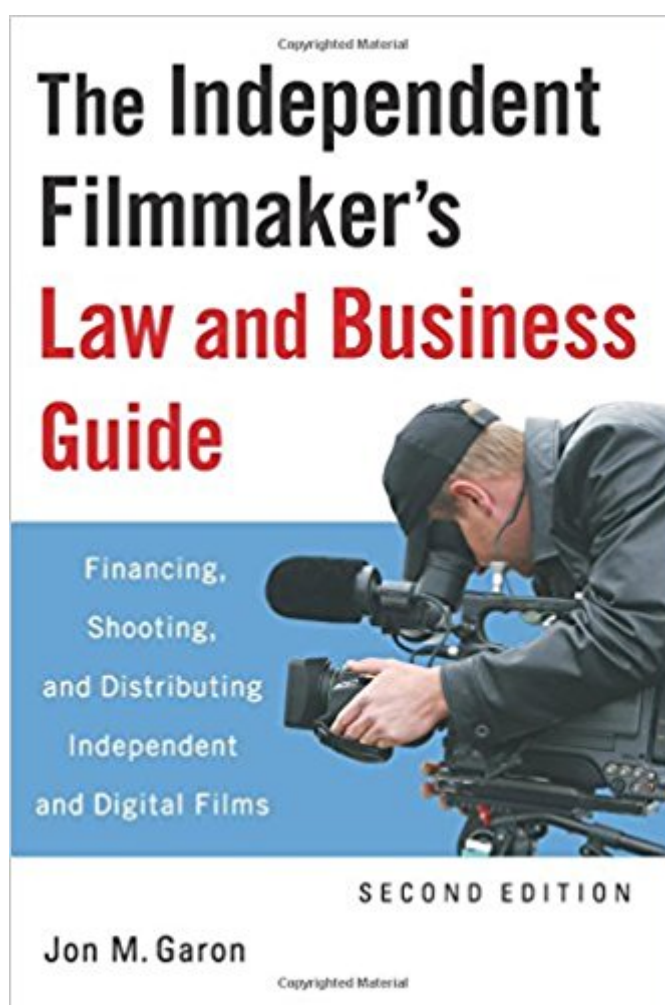


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# The Independent Filmmaker's Law And Business Guide: Financing, Shooting, And Distributing Independent And Digital Films



## Synopsis

Today's explosion of independent and digital filmmaking demands a brass-tacks guide to the business and legal aspects of the process. What fundraising options are available to a filmmaker? When should a filmmaker establish a corporation or limited liability company? How do screenwriters protect their work? What are a director's legal obligations to the producer, cast, and crew--and what are their obligations in return? And why must the filmmaker pay special attention to products and artwork that might appear in the background of a shot? This indispensable resource addresses the legal, financial, and organizational questions that an independent or guerrilla filmmaker must face, and the problems that will doom a project if left unanswered. It demystifies issues such as founding a film company, obtaining financing, preparing a budget, securing locations, shooting, granting screen credits, and distributing, exhibiting, and marketing a film. Newly updated and expanded, this second edition explores concepts such as executing a digital distribution strategy through the use of YouTube and webisodes, the importance of international distribution, and legal issues particular to documentaries. Six handy appendixes provide sample contracts, copyright circulars, Documentary Filmmakers' Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use, studio contact information, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An easy to follow and a valuable resource for those interested in being behind the scenes of a production." — Buzzine

Jon M. Garon is a law professor at Hamline University School of Law who specializes in entertainment law, intellectual property, and business law.

First chapter I read was on budgeting. All chapters since then have been the same: this is one of the best and most informative books I've ever read. I have the Kindle version, and am constantly bookmarking pages or highlighting specific information. Union / guild issues are also clearly covered in great detail. What you need to know is here - whether or not you will be partially working as an independent or fully doing so, the knowledge shared in these pages is invaluable.

I read Jon's first edition around 2005 or so and it has been so valuable to me. It details step by step the process of film making for the independent film maker. Legal, rights, crew, cast, etc. Everything. I use the current edition as my bible each time I start my film making process. Don't make any mistakes that will cost you everything. This is the guide book, the trail blazer. Use it!

I haven't had much chance to REALLY crack into this book, but that's only because there is so much to cover! The first chapter alone makes the purchase worth it with the loads of information it offers. I had no idea how to even begin as an independent filmmaker as far as the business side of things go, but this book proves to be invaluable every time I pick it back up.

Very informative book. I'm glad I picked this up. A good read and easy to pick up no matter where you are in your filmmaking process.

Great insight on the legalities of filmmaking from start to finish, learnt a lot about the intricacies of budgeting, getting funding for projects, starting a film company, production budgeting, selling the film, and much more. This is a must read for all filmmakers.

If you are even thinking about making a movie someday this is the book to read. I've read a lot of this type of book and this is the only one ever to explain in detail everything you need to know. Pay it.

Very Valuable Information!!!

As a screenwriter with minor credits who is tired of waiting for others to make my script, I found this

book both a sobering and inspirational guide to making a micro budget film. Rather than leaping in blind, I am going to take my time and get the business/legal aspect in good order before I attach a director and talent. I am still no expert on filmmaking, but I found Jon Garon's book to be an eye-opener that has helped make me aware of the myriad challenges ahead to make my first go a successful one. He covers everything from setting up a film contract and getting your contracts in good order to assembling your production team and assessing your distribution strategy BEFORE proceeding to Principal Photography. And he covers the bases for micro, low budget and modest budget filmmakers. An Added Bonus - I had a question and emailed Jon and he responded within an hour. He even gave me a URL to point me in the right direction. That's service! I highly recommend newbie filmmakers (and others) add this book to your library and refer to it often.

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