

# Contents

- 1 The Film and Television Industry
- 2 Finding the Jobs
- 3 Tools of the Trade
- 4 Preparing for the Shoot
- 5 On the Job
- 6 The Payoff

- Glossary
- Resources
- Index
- Appendix A—A Day in the Life of a Movie Extra
- Appendix B—Memoirs of a Background Actor

## Testimonials

REALLY enjoyed your class. I came to class with three specific questions; you answered those three questions in the first 20 minutes of the first class. WOW!!!!!! —Drama Mamma Mia (Mary Burns), Actor/Comedian

I must say Gary has done it again; this is the second class of yours that I have taken. In a nutshell, if it is publishing, acting, or both that anyone wishes to pursue, they are selling themselves short by not enrolling in *any* class that you offer. I will be a lifetime student. Movie Extra 101 has got me rocking and rolling in the right direction! Thanks Gary! —Laura Zimmerman Wear

Movie Extra 101 is a great course for anyone looking to become an extra or looking to start off small in the film industry. The course gives very informative, step-by-step information about becoming an extra, some really great stories of personal experiences as an extra from the instructor, as well as the latest info about what is going on around town. —Ashley Michelle Love

I'm so happy I took the Movie Extra 101 class. Not only did I learn how to increase my chances of being in more films, I also learned what to expect and what to do and not do while on the set. Thanks so much, Gary, for taking the time out to answer all of our questions since we are now "Hollywood South" and have MANY opportunities to come! —Melissa Mamelli

Really enjoyed the class! Both the book and the class were very informative and an easy introduction into the business. —Charlie Howard

Thanks so much for the experience of the Movie Extra 101 class. Starting Friday I am in Failure to Launch as an extra. See ya at the movies! —Jennifer Valley

People choose to work as television and film background actors for a number of reasons. Some are unemployed and need the revenue stream; others want a way to supplement their income while keeping their day job; yet others simply are looking for something new and exciting to keep them busy during their retirement. While the work as a nonspeaking "atmosphere" extra may be easy, finding such jobs might be a bit trickier.

This book provides a wealth of hard-to-come-by information on becoming a film industry background actor and featured extra. It is designed for both the novice wanting to be in his or her first film as well as experienced extras wanting to new more about the industry. *Movie Extra 101* guides the reader through the steps involved in finding jobs in films, what you will need for casting companies, preparing for the actual shoot, and what to expect once on the job. Whether you're new to the field of film extra or have many films, videos, or commercials to your credit, *Movie Extra 101* provides much insight on finding work with production companies and developing long-lasting relationships.

### ***Movie Extra 101* addresses such topics as:**

- ◆ The film and television industry
- ◆ Finding the jobs you want
- ◆ Tools of the trade for working as a background actor
- ◆ Preparing for your first film or TV shoot
- ◆ What to expect once on the job
- ◆ The big payoff
- ◆ The life of a movie extra
- ◆ Memoirs of a movie extra



**About the Author** - Gary Michael Smith is a background actor and featured extra in New Orleans. He has appeared in made-for-TV movies and miniseries with such actors as Melissa Gilbert, Gerald McRaney, Queen Latifa, LL Cool J, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, Dylan Neal, and Lucy Lawless. He has appeared in feature films with Josh Lucas, Martin Lawrence, Jon Voight, Christopher Lloyd, Sean Penn, Patricia Clarkson, James Gandolfini, Anthony Hopkins, Jude Law, and Kate Winslet. He also has worked in casting for three casting companies to cast for such films as *Glory Road* (Jerry Bruckheimer/Disney) and *All the King's Men* (Sony Pictures).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: Movie Extra 101. ISBN 978-1-930554-05-4

Price: \$14.95 (Add \$6.40 per book for shipping or include FedEx number. Louisiana residents add \$.60 for sales tax.)

**Purchaser Information**

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Price: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

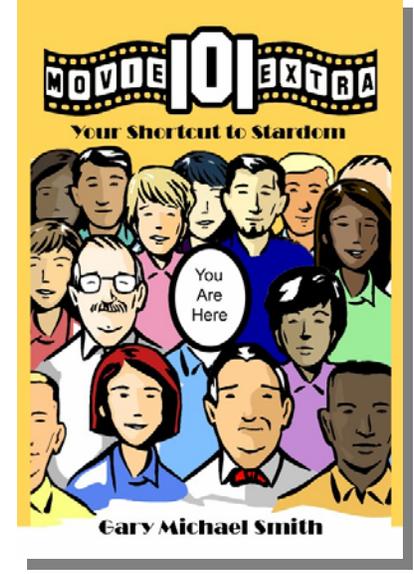
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ FedEx #: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to Chatgris Press and mail to P.O. Box 850227, New Orleans, LA 70185-0227. For more information, call 504-352-1957, fax 504-861-0501, or email ChatgrisPress@ChatgrisPress.com. Note: Information on this order form is private and confidential, and will not be sold, leased, rented, or given to any individual or organization.

**Chatgris Press**  
**P.O. Box 850227**  
**New Orleans, LA 70185-0227**

First Class  
Postage  
Here

**Name**  
**Title**  
**Street Address**  
**Mailing Address**  
**City ST ZIP**



**Movie Extra 101** provides a wealth of hard-to-come-by information on becoming a film industry background actor and featured extra. It is designed for both the novice wanting to be in his or her first film as well as experienced extras wanting to new more about the industry.

**Chatgris Press**  
**P.O. Box 850227**  
**New Orleans, LA 70185-0227**  
**www.ChatgrisPress.com**