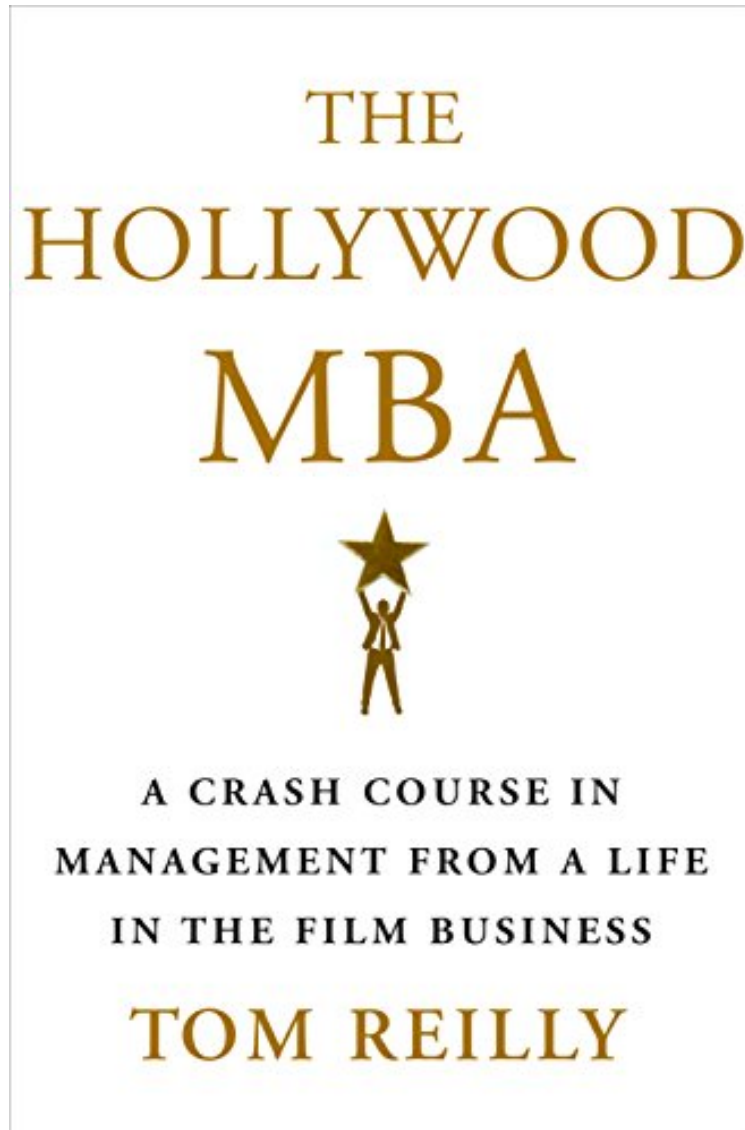


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# The Hollywood MBA: A Crash Course in Management from a Life in the Film Business

*Tom Reilly*

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**Tom Reilly : The Hollywood MBA: A Crash Course in Management from a Life in the Film Business** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hollywood MBA: A Crash Course in Management from a Life in the Film Business:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. "The Hollywood MBA" - Best Book on Managing Any Organization! By Joe V. "The Hollywood MBA" is the best book on management I've ever read. Period. After spending four years acquiring a marketing degree at a University and having to read numerous books on

management, I've come to this conclusion. I could have eliminated every book on management and saved a great deal of work, effort, and time for myself if I had gotten hold of "The Hollywood MBA". It is the "Bible" of management and leadership. Mr. Reilly's unique approach to running any organization through the Hollywood Model of producing a major motion picture contains universal principals that are easily applied. It provides a wealth of "know-how" and outlines the technical skill sets and the management and leadership skills necessary to excel in any business where the goal is to attain higher levels of success in terms of productivity and efficiency. The book does this in the most entertaining manner through Mr. Reilly's vast knowledge and experience running movie sets. He begins each section with a "Case Study" which is the title of a movie he has worked on, including the producer such as Warner Brothers, the director, and the stars of the film. This alone engages the reader's interest and heightens curiosity. He presents his case studies around scenes that not only illustrate sound management, but do so in a very humorous fashion. The section on the movie "Uptown Girls" by MGM where he has to hire a pig named Moo, and groom Moors's back-up, is absolutely hilarious. This is only a thumbnail, only the tip of the iceberg for what awaits the aspiring manager and the seasoned veteran who wants to sharpen his tools in trade. The overwhelming aspects of producing a \$60 million dollar movie with thousands of variables and disparate parts, all on the table for consideration and to be accounted for within a six-month time frame and deadline, has got to be the most stressful, intense, and downright impossible task on earth. Yet, Mr. Reilly not only has achieved beyond all expectations to deliver on time this commitment, he has outlined the reasons for his success and backed it up with superb research and anecdotes, and an easily accessible and applicable format. The Hollywood MBA is a guide, a tried and true, and proven guide. It is a manual which shows how to build the strength of an organization. It readies the leader to become the "engineer" of the team. It offers the leader sound examples of how to be decisive, actionable, how to build trust and engage the employee so as to maximize efficiency, productivity, creativity, and innovation as a means to improve outcomes and bolster success. It shows how segmenting tasks can create an atmosphere that promotes individual accountability as a means to achieve collective success. Finally, it is a blueprint for anyone interested in acquiring the ultimate skills in management and leadership, and anyone with a desire to reach the pinnacle of success in handling the most unique and impossible challenges any organization may present. A most fascinating book.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.  
Provocative, informative, entertaining read.  
By Customer  
The Hollywood MBA : A Crash Course In Management delivers on its unique and provocative premise: that the management of a feature film requires skills, management methods, and crafty out-of-the-box thinking that can be adapted and are transferable to virtually any business or enterprise. Most people have little knowledge of how films are "manufactured"; the book reveals exactly how they are. It is an insider's first-hand account of the issues, problems, and challenges of filming a movie. During his career, Tom Reilly was one of the most sought-after assistant directors. The author's impressive and extensive credits speak for themselves. The cast of people he has worked with gives him great credibility and makes for interesting reading. The mere premise of The Hollywood MBA--that the methods and management of procuring for and production of a motion picture can provide insightful and instructive lessons for management in settings far afield--seems mildly preposterous. We've all watched films being shot, heard the calamity stories, efficient? This book will surprise you. Reilly begins each chapter with a complex situation that was his responsibility to navigate and resolve (filming in an alligator-infested Everglades with Sean Connery; discussing with Robert De Niro when to use or not use a stunt double at night, in freezing temperatures on a beach in Coney Island; managing the life cycle and growth of a baby piglet cast as a co-star in a film), then discusses the process he used to do so. He then translates how that process can be used to make any business or company more efficient, productive, and successful. If you are curious about how films are really made and want an informed and entertaining way to learn how, this is the book. If you want to run your business or company more productively, read this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
Good  
By DarrenIngram\_dot\_com  
This book provides an interesting, different take on management by giving a humorous, insightful and novel crash course, based on the author's life in the film business over three decades. It can be more than just another how-to business book. It feels to be a mixture between novel, autobiography and textbook. It just works! It can be very giving if you let it. It will let you experience many experiences you may rather not experience in-the-flesh, whilst delivering a lot of great knowledge that can be stored "just in case"; the future comes to throw a curveball or two at you. At the heart of the book are ten strategies that the author says have helped, whether managing a big Hollywood production or dealing with a complex business problem. This book is not written solely for the film and media industry's benefit. To be fair, you may not consider it a "breakthrough" book on one hand. It is hardly going to be the business bible that may lead to a seismic change of thinking, yet it does not set out to be that. It encapsulates the author's experiences and details how problems were resolved. It is a practical, personal guide to show how real-world, actual problems were dealt with, enhanced by some great writing, funny stories, serious anecdotes and a little bit of Hollywood magic for best effect. This could be an ideal "commuting companion"; or bedtime reading.

What would you do if alligators were loose in your office? Or if your place of business changed 80 times during a four

month period? What if two of your key employees were infant twins? Or you were asked to manage 130 people who were hired yesterday? Tom Reilly has faced these obstacles and thousands more in his three-decade career managing major motion pictures. He's led more than 100,000 employees and been responsible for overseeing over two billion dollars in pro-rated production budgets and learned that successful management isn't about what you want; the question is, what do you NEED? Often filming at live locations, Reilly was forced to adopt a unique set of strategies to accommodate for extreme workplace conditions and the challenge of leading and managing big budget projects, a revolving-door workforce of technicians, and actors such as Al Pacino, Robert de Niro, Tom Hanks, Charlize Theron, Sean Connery, and Harrison Ford. In *The Hollywood MBA*, Reilly explores the ten key strategies he utilized to manage big crews, big budgets, and big personalities on major motion pictures, and shows us how these strategies can be leveraged in any business for success. With an eye for making small adjustments to management strategy that produce big results, Reilly utilizes the narrative backdrop of the film set as an extreme case study in modern management identifying proven, easy-to-implement, and often counter intuitive practices that will increase engagement, team cohesion, efficiency, creativity, quality, and the bottom line in any industry.

"THE HOLLYWOOD MBA provides us with proven principles and techniques to successfully lead and manage very complex projects and navigate the turbulent business environment."--Joseph A. Maciariello, Professor Emeritus, Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management, Claremont Graduate University, Director, Drucker Lab, and author, *A Year with Peter Drucker*. "What Ed Catmull's book *Creativity, Inc.* did from the perspective of Pixar and animated film production, Tom Reilly does from the vantage point of live action filmmaking. *THE HOLLYWOOD MBA* is a manifesto for managers in any business who are leading creative teams while striving for excellence. Full of insight and wisdom. A must read!"--Joe Hartwick, President, Physical Production: 20th Century Fox "Tom Reilly has really hit the mark with his *Hollywood MBA: A Crash Course in Management From a Life in the Film Business*. This part case study, part autobiographical, and part movie script approach to delivering lessons for effective management rises to the top of the list of the must read books for MBAs."--Willie E. Hopkins, Dean of Koppelman School of Business, Brooklyn College About the Author TOM REILLY has been a professional filmmaker for more than thirty years collaborating on over 100 film and television projects for every major studio. He's worked with directors Sydney Pollock, Irwin Winkler, Barbra Streisand, and Woody Allen and with more than 75 Academy Award winners. He is a member of the Directors' Guild of America, a Distinguished Lecturer on Film at Brooklyn College and the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, and lives in New York.