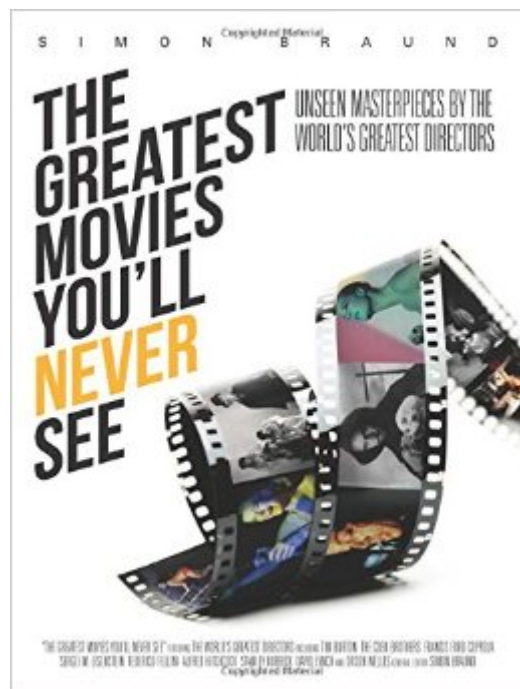


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# The Greatest Movies You'll Never See: Unseen Masterpieces By The World's Greatest Directors



## Synopsis

From Hitchcock and Dali to Peckinpah and Lynch, cinema history is littered with masterpieces that have never seen the light of day. Now, *The Greatest Movies You'll Never See* unveils the fascinating - and frequently heart-breaking - stories of these projects' faltering steps from green light to movie graveyard. Opening at the dawn of contemporary cinema with Charlie Chaplin's *Return from St. Helena*, and closing with the collapse of Tony Scott's *Potsdamer Platz*, following the director's suicide in 2012, this riveting compendium of celluloid 'what ifs' goes behind the scenes of more than fifty 'lost' films to explain exactly why they never made it to the final cut. Discover the meticulous preparations behind Ray Harryhausen's *War of the Worlds* and Stanley Kubrick's *Napoleon*; learn why *Brazzaville*, a sequel to *Casablanca*, and *Night Skies*, a science-fiction horror story by Steven Spielberg, fell by the wayside; and read about the unrealized dreams of sometimes ill-fated auteurs Tim Burton and the Coen Brothers. *The Greatest Movies You'll Never See* details all the obstacles encountered, from unsympathetic studios and preposterous plots to the untimely deaths of stars. Alongside these compelling tales from development hell are script extracts, storyboards, concept artwork and frames of surviving footage. In addition, all the unmade movies are accompanied by original posters from acclaimed modern designers, including Akiko Stehrenberger (*Funny Games*, *Kiss of the Damned*) and Heath Killen (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Never Let Me Go*). An endlessly absorbing alternative history of the silver screen, *The Greatest Movies You'll Never See* is an essential read for all true cineastes. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Whittier told us, "For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: 'It might have been!'" But it is only half true. What if one of the things that might have been was a movie with Jerry Lewis as a clown in a Nazi concentration camp? What if there had been a movie sequel to Casablanca? These are "might have beens" about which we can be anything but sad. These two examples are anomalies, though, included in The Greatest Movies You'll Never See: Unseen Masterpieces by the World's Greatest Directors (Cassell Illustrated), edited by Simon Braund. All of these movies were proposed, planned, and may even have been in production, but they are movies that we can only dream about seeing. Some of them had the potential to have been masterworks, and so there is a Whittier-tinged regret over most of the chapters, but the stories of what was proposed and what went wrong are often amusing and surprising. Let's clear up that Jerry Lewis movie first. Unlike the other films described here, The Day the Clown Cried isn't imaginary. It exists. It was made in 1972, and a few people have been shown the rough cut, but it is supposed to be worse than you can imagine. The sequel to Casablanca was written and even casted, and it would have turned the original on its head, revealing that Rick had been a secret agent all along. But let's get serious. What movie fan wouldn't want to see the thriller No Bail for the Judge starring Audrey Hepburn and Laurence Harvey, directed by Alfred Hitchcock? It had a dark, humorous script, and was set in Britain, to which the director wanted to return when the film was being contemplated in 1958.

Imagine going to the DVD section of your local library and seeing "Sequels to 'Casablanca' and 'Gladiator.'" "War of the Worlds" with FX by stop-motion master Ray Harryhausen. "The Marx Brothers doing a movie with Salvador Dali." Stanley Kubrick directing a biography of Napoleon. "Legendary animator Hayao Miyazaki adapting Pippi Longstocking." Nicolas Cage as Superman. "Alejandro Jodorowsky adapting 'Dune.'" Ridley Scott directing real-life thriller "The Hot Zone." "Batman Year One" instead of "Batman Begins." "A story of the 300 Spartans starring Bruce Willis and directed by Michael Mann." "An adaptation of video game 'Halo' by the director of 'District 9.'" All these and so many more are covered in this fantastic book. It's amazing to read of the various projects Terry Gilliam and Orson Welles were unable to get off the ground despite hard work and also the original idea for the revival of "Star Trek" in motion pictures and an unused James Bond starring Sean Connery. In some cases, the decision to shoot these down could be disastrous such as Carloco passing on the Arnold Schwarzenegger epic "Crusade" in favor of the mega-bomb "Cutthroat Island" which put

them out of business. It even goes into movies that were actually mostly made like Marilyn Monroe's final film; Jerry Lewis's infamous Holocaust drama "The Day the Clown Cried"; and David O. Russell's "Nailed" that folded just two days before production was complete with just one key scene barring it from being released. In each case, it's pointed out that these films could have been hits and truly amazing but remain unused and unmade. If there's a complaint, it's that the book is too short as any of these could be grounds for a major volume for much more detail.

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