



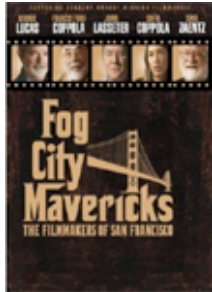
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## Fog City Mavericks: The Filmmakers of San Francisco

Director: Gary Leva

Starring: George Lucas, Francis Ford Coppola, Robin Williams, Clint Eastwood, Chris Columbus, Sophia Coppola, John Lasseter, Milos Forman, Saul Zaentz and more.

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Face it, documentaries can have a tendency to induce sleep; or they play to the literati of their selected genre, alienating the common folk in the darker theater pews...

This is so not the case in *Fog City Mavericks*. This work reminds its lucky viewers why they fell in love with movie-going to begin with: the creative minds behind the frames that paint moving images to feed our imaginations.

Here, director, producer, writer and editorial wiz Gary Leva and his crew tell the story of some of America's boldest, bravest and honest film makers.

However, unlike the who-did-whats you may have seen tally-ho'd prior, Leva's subjects have a common element which until now has been unfocused on: San Francisco; a quiet roaring artistic behemoth that's a mere seven square miles of an uncompromising Bohemian slant reminiscent of Paris circa 1920.

In fact San Francisco is considered by the celluloid purest to be where American film began. Makes sense, since the gold rush boom brought in a tsunami of high-energy brave hearts from all points throwing caution to the wind for a taste of success; hard earned success. Is there really any wonder the city morphed into the ongoing creative Mecca it is today?

Two of the *Fog City's* "children" are considered by film enthusiasts to be the fathers of modern cinema: George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola.

They met on a set and each admired the others point of view without being too much of an egotist. They also both detested the Hollywood machine that forced box office results over art that was in its seventh decade a few hundred miles south.

Naturally youth and desire led the pair into a self directed company filled with friends to play in their medium of film. They would make films they liked on their terms.

When reality hit idealism, Coppola, like many film geniuses (think Orson Welles), would dip into the flaming studio cauldron and sell a bit of his soul to keep funding going.

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Lucas, meanwhile, was sorely bashed and prodded when he ran a tasting spoon over the cauldron – even when he delivered to it a crowd pleasing mirepoix called, *American Graffiti*.

The suffering of fools was never a more well served cliché. Were Lucas a lesser man he would have certainly given up...Ah, but what does not kill us...makes us dig in and create *Star Wars*. Well, him anyway.

*Fog City* doesn't just spot light the two universally famous honor roll lads. It also offers smile broadening insights to many other San Fran leaders: Clint Eastwood, Saul Zaentz, Chris Columbus, and John Lasseter to name drop the bare minimum included here. You'll learn about a neat tie to Chaplin's legacy. And see how a group of some celluloid purest pop culturists successfully managed to dance around Hollywood politics to make some of the finest films ever illuminated.

The doc uses hundreds of clips that will warm your heart like grandma's rum-laced warm apple cider on a winter's sunset. The chosen scenes instantly place you in a happy crevice of your brain where you stored the endorphins of the first time you saw them. A sample? Sure: the *Star Wars* films, the *Indiana Jones* films, *The Godfather* works, *Apocalypse Now*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Amadeus*, *Toy Story*, *The Incredibles*, *The Black Stallion*, on into *Lost in Translation*.

The most important thing *Fog City Mavericks* does is restore your faith that there are keepers of the flame of the first doe-eyed filmmakers. There will always be a group of film fidgeting mavericks who will trust instincts, let hunger pangs roar and keep us sane by producing the anti *Fast and Furious* homogenized cookie-cutter crap the big blue meany studios want to force feed us nowadays.

**A blunt aside:** Comedian Robin Williams has one of the final lines in the flowing doc. He throws in an impression of Truman Capote as Darth Vader – and frankly, if for no other reason, rent this! [Buy this!](#) Share This!

**Snack recommendation:** Something quiet to nibble upon as *Fog City* is just that interesting.



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