

BELOW THE LINE, A FILM CREW SURVIVAL GUIDE BOOK PULLS BACK THE CURTAIN ON BREAKING INTO HOLLYWOOD

LOS ANGELES, CA, APRIL 2024 - Many people dream of making it in Hollywood, but do they possess the drive and skills to not only break in.....but to survive it.

This informative new book contains invaluable, first-hand knowledge, written by veteran below the line crew member, Melanie A. Ragone. Arming those with the desire of working in “the business” the tools needed to enter and succeed in the world of Hollywood. If you seek unfiltered and actionable advice, Ragone’s authentic narrative unveils the gritty reality and demands of working on set, as she generously passes on her battle-tested wisdom, sharing her vast knowledge of working below the line.

In this candid and practical field guide, the author not only pulls back the curtain but takes you behind it, sharing her experiences working on feature films like *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* and *Captain America*, and television shows such as *Doom Patrol* and *The Walking Dead*. With nerves of steel, Melanie thrived in one of the toughest boys’ clubs, becoming a leader on some of the largest film sets in the world. Melanie’s must-read debut book is a personal memoir and practical guide, filled with real-world advice and expert insights. She provides an honest and unfiltered look behind the scenes, equipping you to thrive in the elusive world of Hollywood. So, if readers ever wanted a true insider’s perspective on the film industry, look no further.



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Professor Jennifer Berry of California State University Northridge, herself a writer & director said: *“Below the line is a practical guide with a personal touch. Melanie’s insightful book is the new bible for anyone working below the line in the film industry. It’s written with clarity, wit, and true working experience.”* In my opinion this book will offer any reader the capacity to step on set full of confidence! It will always have a place on my syllabus!” added Professor Berry.

Melanie sold out at the LA Times Festival of Books 2024. Below the Line available in eBook and print versions on [Book Baby](#). Available for pre-sale on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#) and other major online book suppliers.



About Author Melanie A. Ragone

Melanie A. Ragone spent over a decade of her career as a union first unit Grip. Working her way up from Production Assistant to Best Boy Grip, on some of the largest feature films and television sets in the world. Melanie worked on productions such as *The Walking Dead*, *The Vampire Diaries*, *The Hunger Games*, and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. Her work was featured in the New York Times article “What is a Grip? The Few Women Doing the Job in Hollywood Explain”. As a woman who achieved success and leadership roles in a heavily male-dominated field, Melanie is passionate about telling womens’ stories and encouraging women to pursue careers in the film industry. She is a mentor with the non-profit organization, Women in Film. Melanie lives in Los Angeles where she is currently developing and producing her own projects. Below the Line is her first book.

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