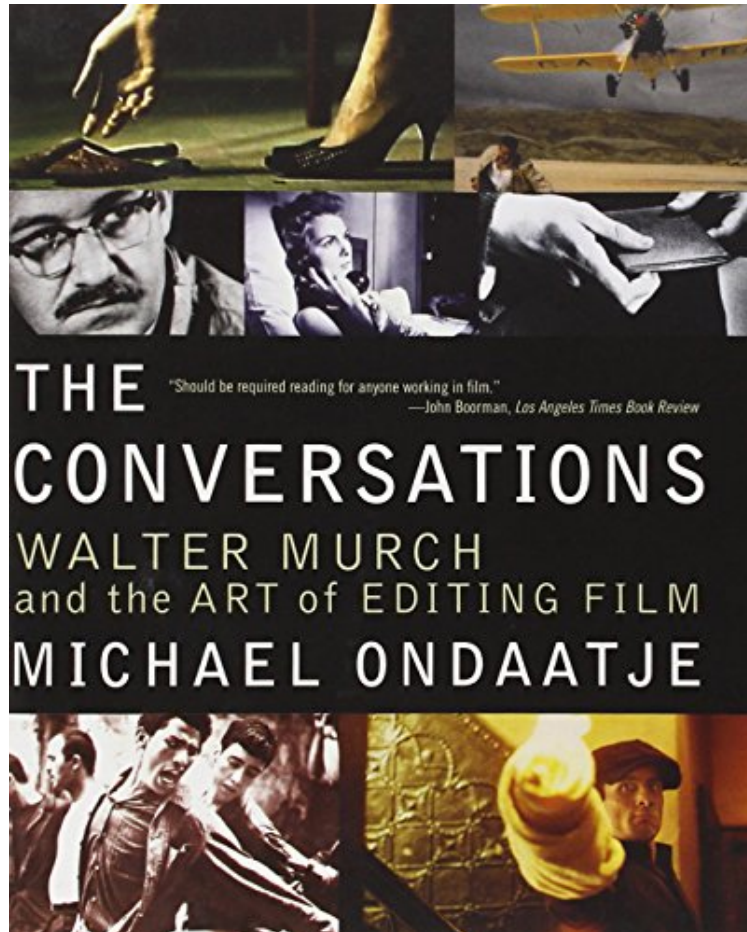


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## The Conversations: Walter Murch and the Art of Editing Film

Michael Ondaatje

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**Michael Ondaatje : The Conversations: Walter Murch and the Art of Editing Film** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Conversations: Walter Murch and the Art of Editing Film:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Meditation on StorytellingBy GaryA really interesting meditation on editing and storytelling. I bought this expecting a more how-to book on editing. It is not that. It is very different than that. It's more round about and indirect. It's more about the principles around the moves you might make as an editor than any particular step by step move guide. But given that, it's really interesting to hear an acclaimed and accomplished novelist talk with a really talented film editor. It's really interesting to hear about their tricks for story telling and how they relate. It's more about how to tell a story in general than how to edit or write in particular. But as far as that goes it is completely memorable and very instructional.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. conversation about far more than the craft of editingBy SteveThis is a wonderful book -- five stars for insight, not only

about movie editing but about how a brilliant craftsman uses his broader knowledge to enhance his work. and as the record of a conversation, a pleasure to read. less than five stars for the quality of the paperback edition, however. the paper is cheap and the photograph illustrations, which do so much to clarify meaning in the hardback version, are blurred and flat in the paperback, a definite disappointment. i'm thinking of writing off my purchase and finding a replacement hardback.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy automation003A great book if you are interested in editing.

The Conversations is a treasure, essential for any lover or student of film, and a rare, intimate glimpse into the worlds of two accomplished artists who share a great passion for film and storytelling, and whose knowledge and love of the crafts of writing and film shine through. It was on the set of the movie adaptation of his Booker Prize-winning novel, *The English Patient*, that Michael Ondaatje met the master film and sound editor Walter Murch, and the two began a remarkable personal conversation about the making of films and books in our time that continued over two years. From those conversations stemmed this enlightened, affectionate book -- a mine of wonderful, surprising observations and information about editing, writing and literature, music and sound, the I-Ching, dreams, art and history. The Conversations is filled with stories about how some of the most important movies of the last thirty years were made and about the people who brought them to the screen. It traces the artistic growth of Murch, as well as his friends and contemporaries -- including directors such as Francis Ford Coppola, George Lucas, Fred Zinneman and Anthony Minghella -- from the creation of the independent, anti-Hollywood Zoetrope by a handful of brilliant, bearded young men to the recent triumph of *Apocalypse Now Redux*. Among the films Murch has worked on are *American Graffiti*, *The Conversation*, the remake of *A Touch of Evil*, *Julia*, *Apocalypse Now*, *The Godfather* (all three), *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, and *The English Patient*. Walter Murch is a true oddity in Hollywood. A genuine intellectual and renaissance man who appears wise and private at the centre of various temporary storms to do with film making and his whole generation of filmmakers. He knows, probably, where a lot of the bodies are buried.