

# Ten Celebrated Directors Talk About Their First Film



## My First Movie: Take Two: Ten Celebrated Directors Talk About Their First Film by Brent Manley

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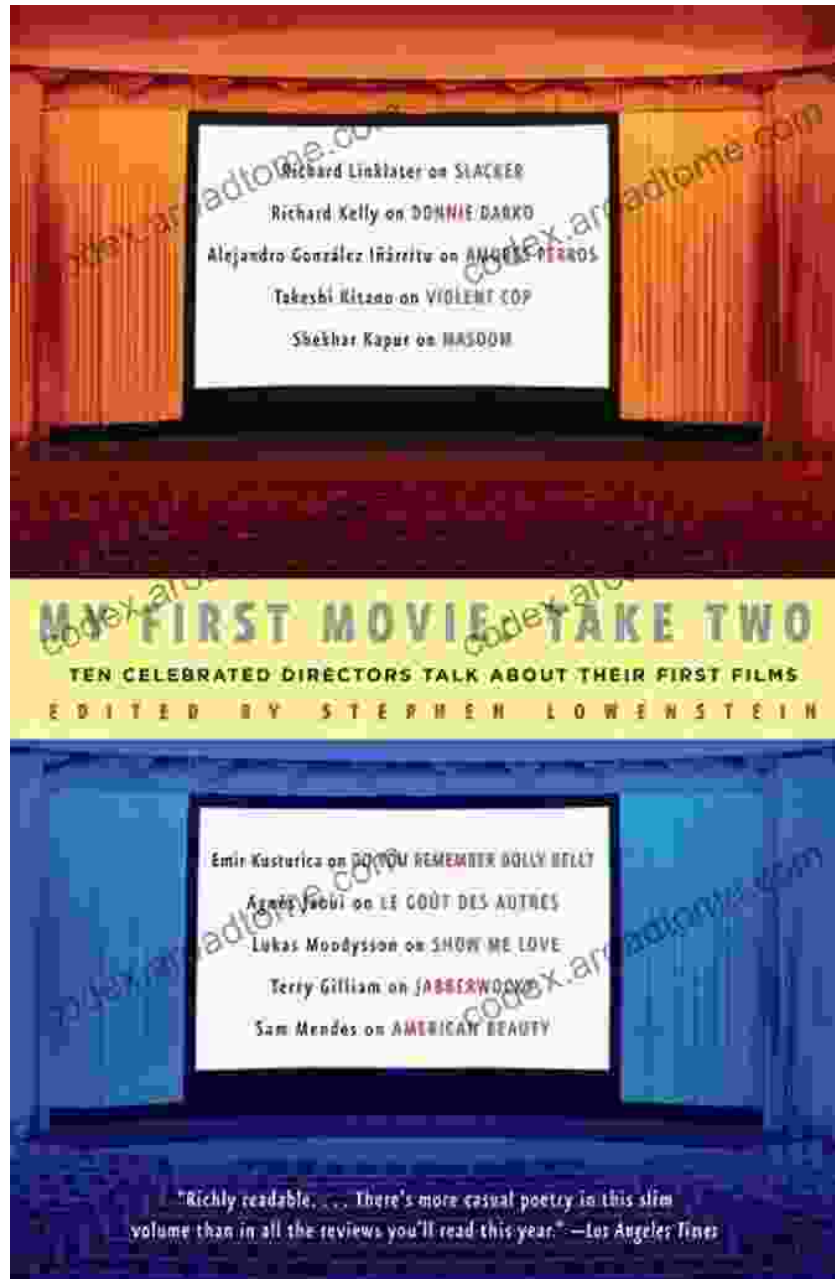


Every filmmaker has a first film. For some, it's a small, personal project that never sees the light of day. For others, it's the start of a long and successful career.

But no matter what the outcome, a first film is always a special experience. It's a chance to learn the ropes, to experiment, and to find your own voice as a filmmaker.

In this article, we talk to ten of the world's most acclaimed directors about their first films. They share their experiences making these films, from the challenges they faced to the lessons they learned.

## 1. Steven Spielberg



Steven Spielberg's first film was the 1974 made-for-TV movie *Duel*. The film was a critical and commercial success, and it helped launch Spielberg's career as one of the most successful directors in Hollywood history.

Spielberg says that he learned a lot from making *Duel*, including the importance of creating suspense and keeping the audience engaged.

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***“The most important thing I learned from making *Duel* is that you have to create suspense and keep the audience engaged,” Spielberg says. “You have to make them care about the characters and what’s going to happen to them.” ”***

## 2. Martin Scorsese



Martin Scorsese's first film was the 1963 short film *The Big Shave*. The film is a disturbing and violent depiction of a man shaving his face. It was a critical success, and it helped Scorsese get his start in the film industry.

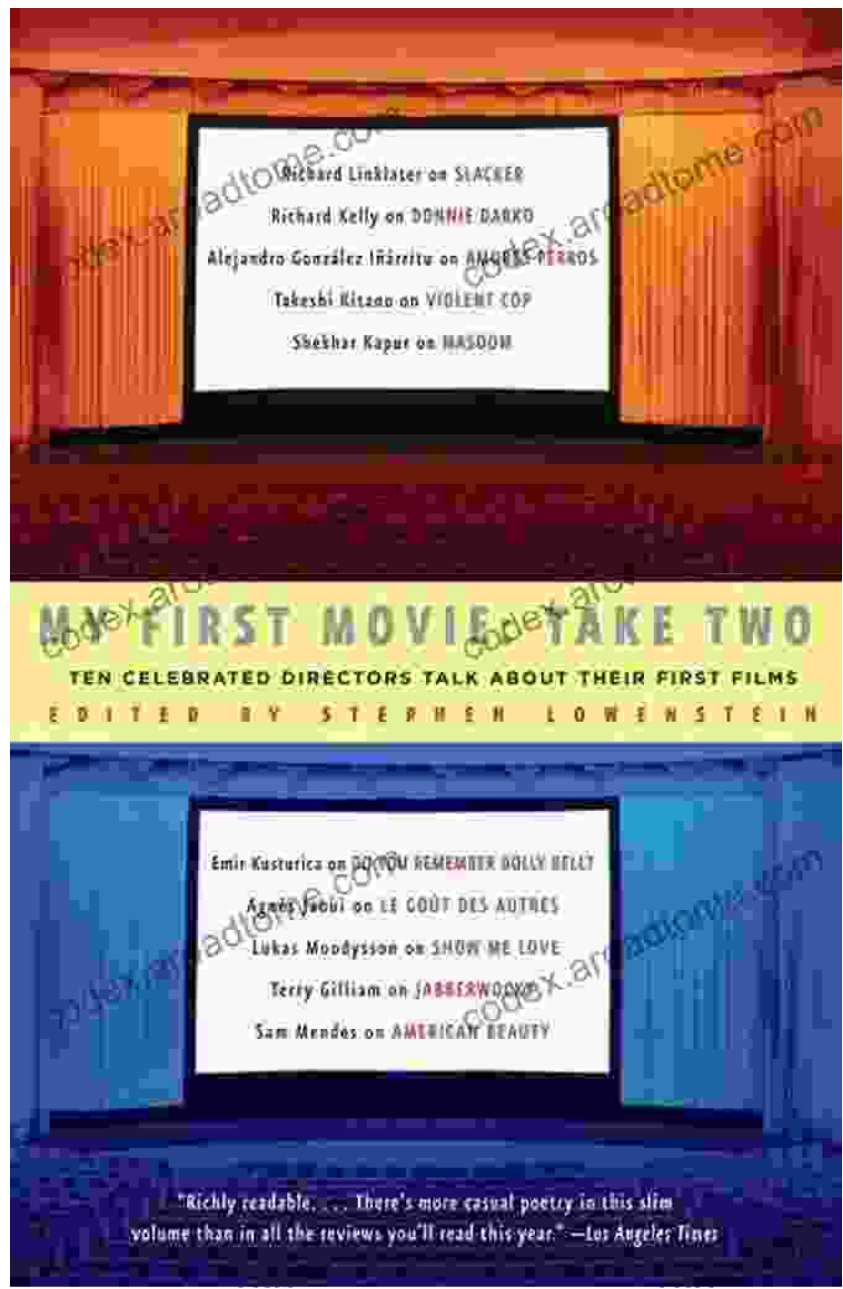
Scorsese says that he made *The Big Shave* to express his anger and frustration with the Vietnam War. He says that he wanted to create a film that would shock and disturb audiences.

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***"I made The Big Shave to express my anger and frustration with the Vietnam War," Scorsese says. "I wanted to create a film that would shock and disturb audiences." "***

### 3. Francis Ford Coppola



Francis Ford Coppola's first film was the 1963 low-budget film *Dementia 13*. The film is a psychological thriller about a group of people who are trapped in a haunted house. It was a critical and commercial failure, but it helped Coppola get his start in the film industry.

Coppola says that he learned a lot from making *Dementia 13*, including the importance of having a clear vision for your film and sticking to it.



***"The most important thing I learned from making *Dementia 13* is that you have to have a clear vision for your film and stick to it," Coppola says. "You can't let the studio or the actors or anyone else tell you what to do." "***

#### 4. Quentin Tarantino



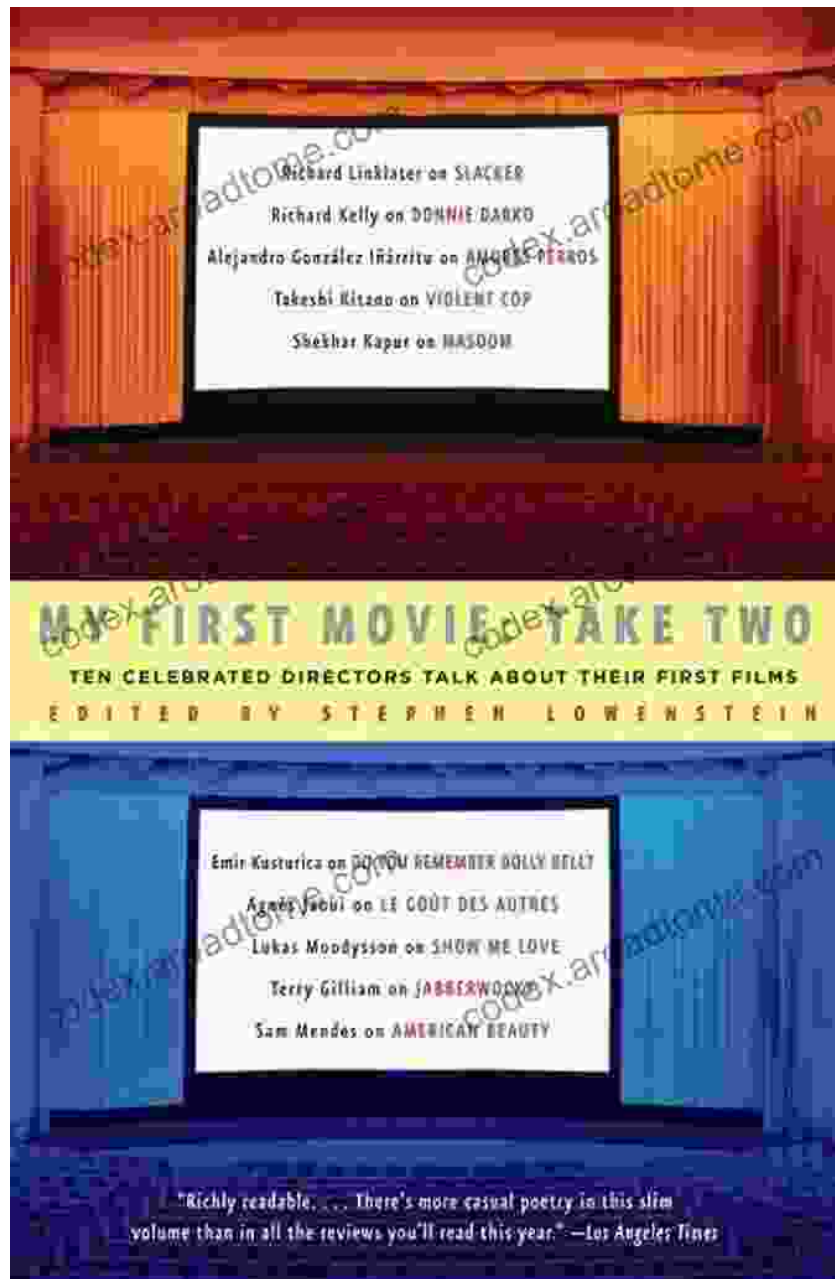
Quentin Tarantino's first film was the 1992 crime film *Reservoir Dogs*. The film is a non-linear narrative about a group of criminals who are planning a heist. It was a critical and commercial success, and it helped launch Tarantino's career as one of the most successful directors in Hollywood history.

Tarantino says that he learned a lot from making *Reservoir Dogs*, including the importance of writing strong dialogue and creating memorable characters.



***“ "The most important thing I learned from making Reservoir Dogs is that you have to write strong dialogue and create memorable characters," Tarantino says. "The audience has to care about the characters and what's going to happen to them." ”***

## 5. Spike Lee



Spike Lee's first film was the 1986 comedy-drama *She's Gotta Have It*. The film is about a young woman who is trying to find herself in life. It was a critical and commercial success, and it helped launch Lee's career as one of the most successful directors in Hollywood history.

Lee says that he learned a lot from making *She's Gotta Have It*, including the importance of telling stories that are personal to you.



***“ "The most important thing I learned from making She”***



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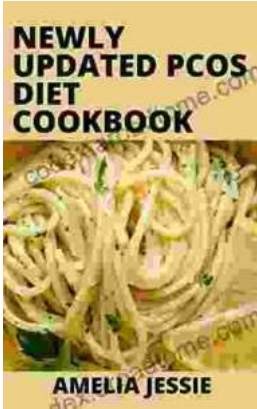
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