

A NEW BOOK GOES BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL

Text by Frank Caracciolo |

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The cover of Wes Anderson Collection: The Grand Budapest Hotel by Matt Zoller Seitz.

Wes Anderson Collection: The Grand Budapest Hotel (Abrams, \$35), by film and TV critic Matt Zoller Seitz, is an in-depth exploration of the director's style as well as the film's design and production. The set's dollhouselike details, a mélange of the gravely serious and the madcap, are brought to life on each page. Readers can get a sense of how the movie's handcrafted props—newspapers, patisserie boxes, passports, a claim ticket for a Persian cat (deceased)—were inspired by the 19th-century grandeur and courtesy the titular hotel celebrates.



A behind-the-scenes snapshot of Zero (played by Tony Revolori) in his Mendel's costume.

Each chapter begins with a quotation from the director and then continues the conversation with the film's artists and actors, informing readers of how absorbing the universe of an Anderson production can be. Here, production designer Adam Stockhausen relates how the end result draws you in: "Grand Budapest has an overall look to it that you come to accept very quickly as the look of the Grand Budapest Hotel. Once you've accepted it, your mind lets go of it. You don't get pulled out of the storytelling, because that is the storytelling."

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