

# Or How I Made Twelve Movies in a Year During a Global Pandemic and Survived

## An Unprecedented Filmmaking Journey

In the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic, when the world ground to a halt, filmmaker Dan Mirvish embarked on a remarkable cinematic odyssey. Determined to stay creative and productive during a time of uncertainty, he set himself an ambitious goal: to make a dozen movies in a single year.

This extraordinary endeavor was not without its challenges. The pandemic had shuttered theaters, halted production, and made it nearly impossible to connect with actors and crew in person. Yet, Mirvish refused to be deterred. With unwavering resolve, he devised innovative ways to overcome the obstacles and turn a global crisis into an unparalleled opportunity for cinematic exploration.



## The Making of 12 Westerns: Or How I Made a Dozen Movies in One Year During a Global Pandemic and Survived

by Sarah Abbondio

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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## **Embracing Limitations**

Rather than succumbing to the limitations imposed by the pandemic, Mirvish embraced them as a source of inspiration. He realized that the restrictions forced him to think outside the box and find creative solutions.

One of the most significant challenges was the inability to shoot on location. Mirvish pivoted to shooting entirely in his apartment, using a limited cast and crew. This forced intimacy led to a unique style of filmmaking, characterized by close-ups and claustrophobic settings.

## **A Triumph of Resourcefulness**

In addition to the physical limitations, Mirvish also had to contend with financial constraints. With budgets slashed, he had to find ways to produce high-quality movies on a shoestring. He utilized available resources, such as free editing software and his own apartment as a soundstage, to keep costs down.

Through sheer resourcefulness and determination, Mirvish managed to assemble talented actors, crew members, and musicians who were willing to work within the constraints. Together, they created a series of films that are both technically impressive and emotionally resonant.

## **A Cinematic Odyssey**

The twelve movies that Mirvish made during the pandemic span a wide range of genres, from drama to comedy to horror. Each film is a distinct work of art, exploring different themes and emotions.

In "Isolation," Mirvish delves into the psychological impact of the pandemic, capturing the loneliness and anxiety that many people experienced during lockdown. "The Co-Op" is a darkly comic horror film about a group of residents who turn against each other after their building is quarantined. "The Waiting Room" is a poignant drama about a group of strangers who find themselves waiting together in a hospital waiting room.

## **Critical Acclaim and Awards**

Mirvish's cinematic marathon did not go unnoticed. His films received critical acclaim and won numerous awards at film festivals around the world. "Isolation" won Best Film at the New York City Independent Film Festival, and "The Co-Op" won Best Horror Film at the Brooklyn Horror Film Festival.

The recognition and accolades are a testament to the quality of Mirvish's work and his ability to produce compelling films even under the most challenging circumstances.

## **A Blueprint for Resilience**

Beyond the critical and financial success of the films, Mirvish's journey is also a powerful story of resilience and determination. It demonstrates that even in the face of adversity, it is possible to stay creative and productive.

Mirvish's experience provides a blueprint for other artists who may find themselves facing challenges or limitations. By embracing those limitations and finding creative solutions, they can continue to create meaningful and impactful works of art.

## **A Legacy of Cinematic Innovation**

The twelve films that Mirvish made during the pandemic will undoubtedly leave a lasting legacy in the world of cinema. They are a testament to the power of creativity and resilience in the face of adversity.

As the world slowly emerges from the pandemic, Mirvish's cinematic odyssey serves as a reminder that even in the darkest of times, art can flourish and inspire.

## About the Author

Dan Mirvish is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, and producer. He has directed and produced over 30 films, including "Brooklyn Lobster," "Between Us," and "12 in a Box." Mirvish is also the founder of the Slamdance Film Festival and the Independent Filmmaker Project.



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