

citing directors chicago style

Mastering the Art of Citing Directors in Chicago Style: A Comprehensive Guide

Citing directors Chicago style is a crucial skill for academics, researchers, and students working with films, documentaries, or theatrical productions. The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers specific guidelines for acknowledging the creative vision of directors in bibliographies and notes, ensuring proper attribution and academic integrity. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of citing directors according to Chicago style, covering various media formats and common scenarios. We will explore the nuances of in-text citations, bibliographic entries, and the subtle differences between citing film directors and theatre directors. Understanding these principles will enhance the credibility of your work and demonstrate a thorough grasp of academic citation practices.

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Understanding the Basics of Chicago Style Citations

The Chicago Manual of Style, often referred to as CMOS, provides two primary citation systems: the NOTES-BIBLIOGRAPHY system and the AUTHOR-DATE system. For citing directors, particularly in the humanities and arts, the NOTES-BIBLIOGRAPHY system is generally preferred. This system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end of the paper to list all sources consulted. Precision in recording source information is paramount. When citing any work, including those directed by a specific individual, the goal is to provide enough detail for your reader to locate the original source with ease. This includes key information such as the director's

name, the title of the work, the production company or theatre, and the year of release or performance.

The fundamental principle behind any citation style, including Chicago, is to give credit where credit is due. This prevents plagiarism and allows readers to verify your information. When dealing with creative works like films or plays, the director's role is central to the artistic interpretation and execution. Therefore, their contribution is significant and warrants clear acknowledgment within your academic writing. Adhering to Chicago style for citing directors ensures consistency and professionalism across your research.

Citing Film Directors in Chicago Style

Citing film directors within the Chicago Manual of Style requires attention to detail, particularly when constructing bibliographic entries. The director's name is a key piece of information that needs to be presented correctly. Generally, the director's name will appear prominently in the citation, often following the title of the film. For example, in a bibliographic entry, you might see the director's name listed after the film's title, followed by information about the production company and release year.

When a film is the primary subject of your analysis, the director's contribution is often highlighted. Chicago style provides flexibility to emphasize this. You might choose to list the director's name as a primary entry in your bibliography if your paper focuses specifically on their oeuvre or a particular directorial style. However, the most common practice is to include the director's name as part of the film's bibliographic information. Understanding the specific format for films, including distinguishing between feature films, documentaries, and short films, is also important.

Essential Components of Film Citations

When citing a film, several core components are essential for a complete Chicago style entry. These elements help readers identify and locate the specific film you are referencing.

- The title of the film, italicized.
- The director(s) of the film, usually preceded by "directed by."
- The production company or companies.
- The year of release.
- For digital access, the platform and URL, or DVD/Blu-ray details.

Distinguishing Between Primary and Secondary Sources

In the context of citing films, the film itself is typically considered a primary source. When you are analyzing the film's content, directorial choices, or thematic elements, you are engaging directly with this primary material. If you are citing a critical review or an academic article about the film and its director, that review or article becomes a secondary source, and its citation will follow the standard CMOS guidelines for citing books, articles, or online content.

Citing Theatre Directors in Chicago Style

Citing theatre directors involves a similar attention to detail as citing film directors, but with specific considerations for live performance. The nature of theatrical productions means that credits might be presented in slightly different ways, and the information available can vary. Chicago style accommodates these differences by emphasizing clarity and completeness in bibliographic entries. The director is a pivotal figure in shaping the interpretation and staging of a play.

When citing a theatrical production, you will often include the name of the theatre company, the venue, and the dates of the performance. The director's name is integral to understanding the specific artistic vision behind that particular staging of the play. Ensuring that the director is clearly identified in your citation provides context for your analysis and acknowledges their significant role.

Key Information for Theatre Citations

Citing a live theatrical performance requires a specific set of information to ensure accuracy and verifiability. These elements help to distinguish one production from another, even if they are of the same play.

- The title of the play, italicized.
- The director's name, often preceded by "directed by."
- The name of the theatre company.
- The venue of the performance.
- The city and state (or country) of the venue.
- The date(s) of the performance.

Citing Recorded Performances

If you are citing a recorded theatrical performance, such as a filmed version of a stage play, the citation will more closely resemble that of a film. You will need to include details about the recording itself, including its release date and any associated production companies or distributors. The director of the stage production and potentially the director of the filmed adaptation (if applicable) should be clearly identified.

In-Text Citations for Directors

In the NOTES-BIBLIOGRAPHY system, in-text citations for directors are typically handled through footnotes or endnotes. When you refer to a specific film or play and wish to acknowledge its director, you will insert a superscript number at the end of the relevant sentence or clause. This number corresponds to an entry in your notes section, which will contain the full citation details.

The initial note for a particular work will be more comprehensive. Subsequent notes referring to the same work can be shortened, often including the director's last name, a shortened title, and the page number or timestamp if applicable. For example, a first note might read: "1. Quentin Tarantino, dir., *Pulp Fiction* (Hollywood: Miramax Films, 1994)." A subsequent note for the same work might be: "2. Tarantino, *Pulp Fiction*." The specific formatting can vary slightly depending on whether you are referring to the work generally or quoting a specific part.

Footnotes and Endnotes in Chicago Style

Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page, while endnotes are compiled at the end of the document. Both serve the same purpose of providing detailed source information without interrupting the flow of the main text. The initial note for a film or play should include the director's name, the title, the production company, and the year of release or performance.

Attributing Directorial Vision

When discussing a director's specific choices or contributions, your notes and bibliography should reflect this attribution clearly. For instance, if you are analyzing a particular directorial technique used by Alfred Hitchcock in *Psycho*, your note might specify the scene or moment and link it directly to Hitchcock's work. The goal is to attribute the creative decisions accurately to the director.

Bibliographic Entries for Directors

The bibliography section of a Chicago style paper is a crucial element that lists all the sources cited in the text. When citing films or plays, the director's name is an essential piece of information within these entries. The order and placement of the director's name can vary slightly depending on the specific format and the emphasis you wish to place.

The general rule for citing films in a bibliography is to list the title of the film first, followed by the director. For example: *Citizen Kane*. Directed by Orson Welles. RKO Pictures, 1941. For plays, the

format is similar, but you would include the theatre company and performance dates. It is important to maintain consistency throughout your bibliography, adhering to the specific guidelines outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style.

Formatting Film Citations in the Bibliography

When creating a bibliographic entry for a film, the director's name typically follows the film's title. The convention is often to state "Directed by" followed by the director's full name. This clearly attributes the directorial role.

- Title of Film. Directed by Director's Full Name. Production Company, Year.

For example:

- The Godfather. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola. Paramount Pictures, 1972.

Formatting Theatre Citations in the Bibliography

For theatrical productions, the bibliographic entry will include details about the play, the director, the theatre company, and the performance specifics. The director's contribution is noted similarly to film citations.

- Title of Play. Directed by Director's Full Name. Theatre Company, Venue, City, State/Country. Performance Dates.

For example:

- Death of a Salesman. Directed by Robert Falls. Goodman Theatre, Chicago, IL. October 12 - November 10, 2012.

Special Considerations for Citing Directors

When citing directors in Chicago style, several unique situations may arise that require careful attention. These include instances where a film has co-directors, or when a director is also the screenwriter or producer. Understanding these nuances ensures the accuracy and completeness of your citations.

If a film has multiple directors, their names should be listed in the order they are credited in the film. For instance, "Directed by Joel Coen and Ethan Coen." If a director has also written the screenplay or produced the film, Chicago style generally advises citing them in their primary directorial role unless your paper specifically focuses on their other contributions. However, for clarity, you might mention these other roles in your text or notes.

Co-Directors and Multiple Directors

When a film or production has more than one director, both (or all) directors should be credited in the citation. The order in which their names appear should match their on-screen or program credits. This maintains fidelity to the original production's attribution.

Directors as Screenwriters or Producers

In cases where a director also holds a significant role as a screenwriter or producer, the primary focus of your citation will depend on the argument of your paper. If your analysis centers on the directorial vision, list them as the director. If your work emphasizes their scriptwriting abilities, you might prioritize that credit. CMOS allows for flexibility here, encouraging clarity and consistency in your chosen emphasis.

The art of citing directors in Chicago style is a nuanced but essential skill for academic rigor. By meticulously following these guidelines for both film and theatre, you ensure proper attribution, enhance the credibility of your research, and demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of how to engage with and acknowledge the creative forces behind significant works of art. Accurate citations are not just a matter of following rules; they are fundamental to the integrity of scholarly discourse.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I cite a director who is also the screenwriter of a film in Chicago style?

A: If your paper's focus is on the directorial aspect of the film, you would cite them primarily as the director. The bibliographic entry would typically read: Title of Film. Directed by Director's Full Name. Screenplay by Director's Full Name. Production Company, Year. Your in-text citation would refer to the directorial work.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a documentary director in Chicago style?

A: Citing a documentary director follows the same principles as citing a feature film director. The bibliographic entry would typically be: Title of Documentary. Directed by Director's Full Name. Production Company, Year. Your notes and text should attribute the directorial vision for the documentary.

Q: How do I handle citing a director whose name is misspelled in the film's credits?

A: In such cases, it is best to use the spelling as it appears in the film's official credits. If you are aware of the correct spelling and it significantly differs, you might note the discrepancy in a footnote or in your text, but the primary citation should reflect the credited spelling.

Q: If a film has a composer who is also the director, how do I prioritize the citation?

A: Unless your research specifically focuses on their compositional work within the film, you would generally cite them as the director. The bibliographic entry would prioritize the directorial credit: Title of Film. Directed by Director's Full Name. Production Company, Year.

Q: What if I am citing a director from a foreign film with a translated title?

A: When citing a foreign film with a translated title, include the original title in parentheses after the translated title in your bibliographic entry. For example: Parasite (Gisaengchung). Directed by Bong Joon-ho. Barunson E&A, 2019.

Q: How do I cite a director of a television series episode in Chicago style?

A: For a television series episode, you would cite the episode title and then the director. The bibliographic entry would look something like this: "Episode Title." Directed by Director's Full Name. Series Title, Season Number, Episode Number. Network, Year.

Q: What is the difference between citing a director in Notes-Bibliography versus Author-Date Chicago style?

A: In the Notes-Bibliography system, directors are cited in footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography. In the Author-Date system, the in-text citation would be (Director's Last Name Year), and the bibliography would list the director's name, followed by the film title. However, the film title is often the primary entry in Author-Date, with the director as a key piece of metadata.

Q: If a director is credited with "Additional Scenes" or "Second Unit Director," how should I cite them?

A: These roles are typically considered secondary directorial contributions. If your argument does not specifically hinge on these contributions, you would cite the primary director. If these secondary roles are crucial to your analysis, you may mention them in your text or a footnote, but they usually do not become the primary focus of the bibliographic entry unless the entire paper is dedicated to that specific aspect.

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