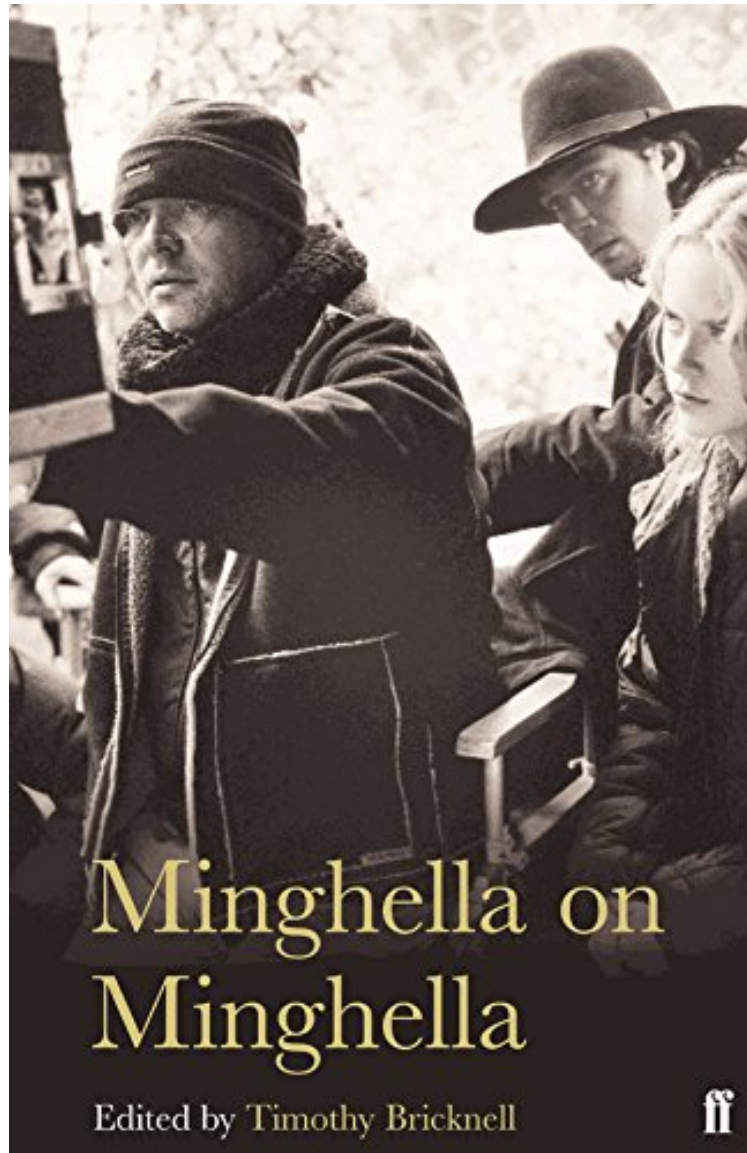


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## Minghella on Minghella

*Timothy Bricknell, Sydney Pollack*  
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**Timothy Bricknell, Sydney Pollack : Minghella on Minghella** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Minghella on Minghella:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Genius talentBy AnneHere's a chance to get a glimpse of such a creative genius. Anthony Minghella saw the world in vibrant color and elaborated on the fine details the rest of us don't notice. I miss his work--everything he did was jam-packed with thoughtful planning and the most sensitive

presentation.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating look at the role of a directorBy James LuckardIf I were to recommend one book, out of the many I've read, to someone who wanted to know what a film director does, this would be it. Minghella is unparalleled in the lucidity and ease with which he dissects the director's role in making a film.The book is compiled from a series of interviews, revolving around different aspects of the filmmaking process, from the general to the specific. However, there is a unity to the tone that makes it a totally coherent work, instead of the cut-and-paste job you might expect.It's true, Minghella has only made 4 films that he feels warrant discussion. (The fifth, Mr. Wonderful, is saved for a brief chapter at the end, detailing what went wrong with it.) Still, he mines more advice and explanations about his creative role from those four films than most other directors are capable of finding in a whole career's worth.Obviously the fact that he's an accomplished playwright means that he's more at ease with language than most filmmakers, and every page is full of fascinating surprises, as he manages to put complex ideas and aspects of his creative process into words.I should only add that this isn't a book I would necessarily recommend to everyone. Minghella demonstrates such a ferocious intelligence that this would likely be over the head of the average casual film buff. This is not "Directing For Dummies." Instead, this is a dense, challenging, but endlessly rewarding read for those who want to be informed and have their perspective broadened.

A former playwright with only two movies under his belt, Anthony Minghella took Hollywood by storm in 1996 with *The English Patient*, a universally lauded epic described by Roger Ebert as "[A] poetic, evocative film . . . told with sweep and visual richness." This robust romance garnered nine Academy Awards, amongst them Best Picture and Best Director. His follow-up, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, combined stunning vistas with the masterful suspense of studio-era Hollywood; praised by the *New York Times*' Janet Maslin as a "hypnotic, sensually charged adaptation," the film also found the attention of the Academy, receiving five nominations. With yet another ambitious adaptation creating tremendous buzz--Charles Frazier's best-selling *Cold Mountain*--Minghella is well on his way to becoming one of the most respected directors of the decade. A thorough craftsman painstakingly involved with each step of the moviemaking process, Minghella here shares knowledge gleaned from years of experience as a musician and writer for the theater. Praised for his ability to adapt the psychological density of the novel to the silver screen, he discusses the screenwriting process at length, imparting valuable lessons regarding pacing and narrative with a refreshing perspective as unique as the characters that pass before his lens.

"Minghella is a master of detail." --Barbara Schulgasser, *The San Francisco Examiner*