

## Sidney Kaufman, a Figure in Film Production

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Sidney Kaufman, a film producer and teacher who also played a major role in financing arrangements for movies, died of cancer in Wellington Hospital in London on Saturday. He was 73 years old and had residences in London, Los Angeles and New York.

Mr. Kaufman wrote, directed and produced a number of documentary and industrial films before and after World War II. After the war, for some 20 years, he taught film making at the College of the City of New York, New York University and the New School for Social Research. He was the first director of the New School's film department, which then, in 1947, was the nation's first studio outside of Hollywood to offer full-time professional training in motion picture production.

In 1959, Mr. Kaufman also participated in a cinematic experiment that produced interesting, but less than salutary results — AromaRama, which he described as the introduction of "fragrance and aromas through the theater's air distribution system, synchronized with the screen images."

He wrote, adapted and produced "Behind the Great Wall," essentially a China travelogue enhanced by odors of oil, orange juice, spices, wet straw, banana oil, smoke and flowers.

"To be able to leave the theater," Mr. Kaufman wrote in The New York Times, "knowing how an opium den smells, after reading of it, will be an expansion of experience that will make this particular screening memorable to many members of the audiences."

Bosley Crowther, The Times's movie critic, said the "merely synthetic smells occasionally befit what one is viewing but more often they confuse the atmosphere." He added: "When this viewer emerged from the theater, he happily filled his lungs with that lovely fume-laden New York ozone. It never has smelled so good."

Mr. Kaufman, since the late 1960's, went into the completion bond business. He was instrumental in developing the method by which these bonds are secured. A completion bond is a means by which an investor or someone with a financial interest in a film can be assured that the picture will be completed on budget, on schedule and as close as possible to the original script. Mr. Kaufman brought to this work a combination of experience as director and producer and knowledge of film financing. According to a family member with knowledge of Mr. Kaufman's business, no picture for which his firm, Performance Guarantees, issued completion

bonds has ever gone over budget or beyond schedule.

Mr. Kaufman was also an officer in the fledgling Screen Directors Guild in 1948. More recently he served on a New York city advisory body to encourage film production in New York.

Mr. Kaufman is survived by his wife, Andrea; a son, John P., a daughter, Katharine Webber, of Bethany, Conn., and a brother, Murray Kaufman.