Who Is Steven Spielberg?

DIRECTOR

By Stephanie Spinner Illustrated by Daniel Mather

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For Jane O'Connor, friend extraordinaire—SS For Katie and The Wombat—DM

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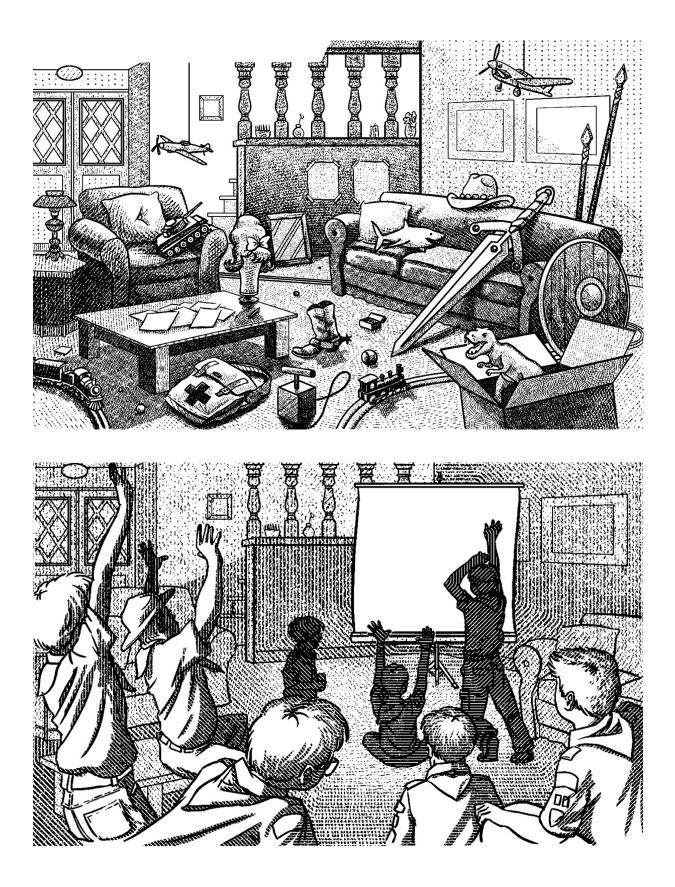
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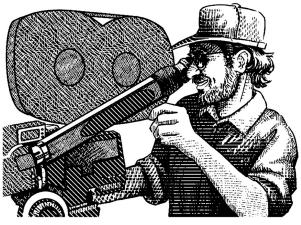
When Steven Spielberg was ten, he borrowed his father's movie camera. He used it to film all kinds of things—model-train wrecks, camping trips, and even the hubcaps on the family car. In fact, he borrowed the camera so often that his father finally gave it to him. From that day on, the Spielberg living room became a movie set, cluttered with props.



While other kids played sports, Steven dreamed up stories to film. Instead of doing homework, he wrote scripts. He figured out how to use lighting, sound, and camera angles to get the effects he wanted. He developed the knack of persuading his parents, his sisters, and anybody else who was around to put on costumes and act for him. Luckily for Steven, his parents encouraged him, and so did his friends. The very first time he showed one of his short movies to the members of his Boy Scout troop, they shouted and cheered.

Their applause only confirmed what Steven already knew: that his favorite place in the world was behind a camera.

Today, just about everybody knows who Steven Spielberg is. He directed four of the most successful films of all time: Jaws, Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark, E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial, and Jurassic



Park. He's won two Oscars for Best Director and an Oscar for Best Picture. He's produced dozens of films and television shows, created video games, and headed up his own movie studio. His work has dazzled fans all over the world.

But his favorite place is still behind a movie camera. Chances are, it always will be.