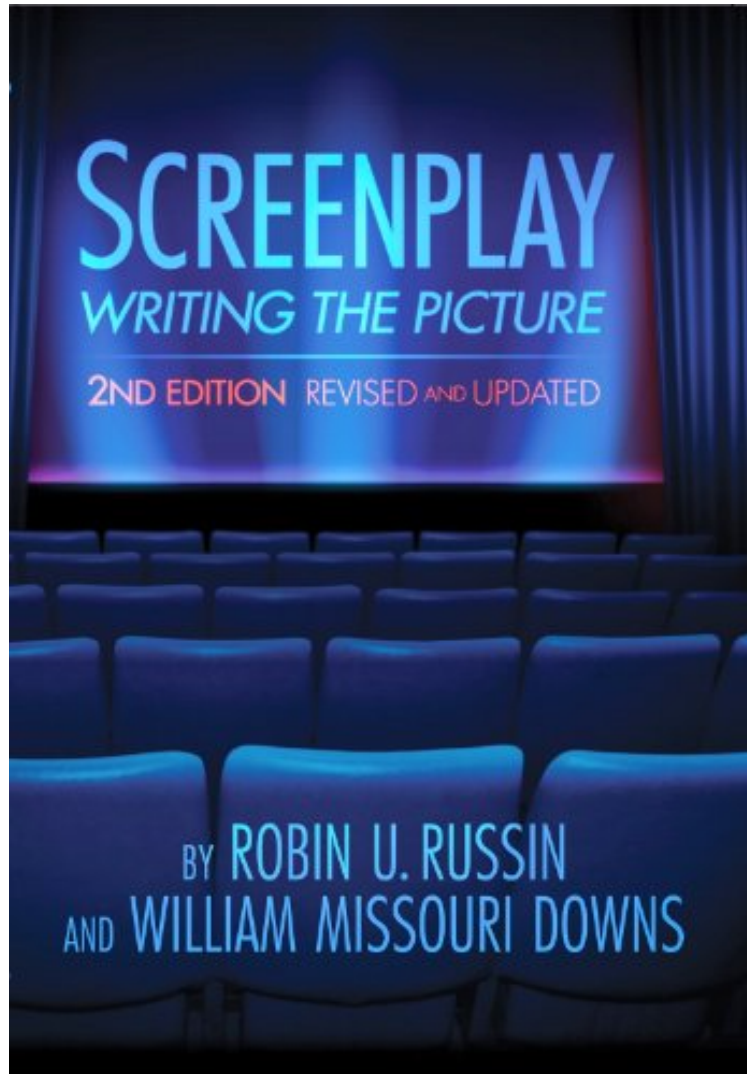


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## Screenplay: Writing the Picture, 2nd Edition

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**Robin U. Russin, William Missouri Downs : Screenplay: Writing the Picture, 2nd Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Screenplay: Writing the Picture, 2nd Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This Book Is The REAL DEAL By M. Torres I purchased this book long ago when I took a screenwriting class in college. As a student used to information delivered didactically, I found that Screenplay: Writing the Picture was a breath of fresh air! I loved that the second chapter is devoted strictly to proper format, down to specific tab spacing! The middle of the text is dedicated to adjusting your screenplay to make coherent sense and "passable" to screenplay readers. The book is sprinkled with "War Stories" by the authors that serve as wonderful parables for anyone trying to get into the industry or even write a spec screenplay. The book even

goes into "formulas" for genre's and gives useful exercises for beginning and even experienced writers. It is a shame that if you type a search for a "screenwriting" text on standard search engines (even ) this book doesn't come up. They give you half-baked books by Syd Field that are all theoretical hoo-ha and of no real variance whatsoever. To me, this is the the ONLY SCREENPLAY BOOK TO OWN because it was written by people from "The Business" that know how damned hard it is if not impossible to break into the industry. I would say it is even better than buying Screenwriting software. At least this book shows you how to outline your screenplay on notecards to examine your story arc and how to get an agent on top of the format, unlike software that formats it for you but cannot give you an inside look as to what studio executives look for in screenplays. (Remember, do not put a brass brad in the middle) I may sound like an archaic school teacher, but spend ten bucks on a used copy of this instead of the 100+ dollars you would spend on software that wouldn't really help you grow as a writer. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worthwhile 3 1/2 stars By Zigfried This is one of the books to have. There is much useful information on placement of dramatic elements for which the audience has expectations. There is also too much other valuable material for me to list. It is of equal import to THE SCREENWRITER'S BIBLE. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing By Yasmin If you're looking for some basic ground rules about screen writing and how to format, how to structure a story, and where to take your story after it's finished, I recommend this book. I've been reading scripts for some time now and this book solidified and explained some concepts that I had been trying to memorize. The author really knows his stuff. He does say however that events that happen in movies don't happen in real life, and I beg to differ, but that doesn't stop the book from being extremely useful. Apparently the author has sold a number of scripts to Hollywood directors. You won't regret this buy.

Screenplay is a complete screenwriting course from initial idea through final script sale providing in-depth discussions of theme development; story research; script plotting and structuring; character development; dialogue; writing and rewriting methods; formatting; the ins and outs of marketing and pitching scripts; writing for TV, the Web and video games, and much more. Well-written, comprehensive and filled with both innovative and tried-and-true writing techniques, illustrative screenplay examples and sage advice from veteran writers, Screenplay will help novices as well as working screenwriters improve and sell their scripts. The second edition of this popular manual is completely revised, reflecting current film industry practices, and includes new chapters on such subjects as Webisodes and video games, as well as updates to its many examples.

"Screenplay: Writing the Picture's newly minted edition is an absolute gem. It updates the classic, indispensable screenwriting craft book and makes it rock for the ever-evolving entertainment marketplace. This book is comprehensive, insightful and genuinely fun to read. I always recommend it on my syllabus as essential reading." -- Neil Landau "book cover" About the Author ROBIN U. RUSSIN Robin was educated at Harvard, Oxford, RISD and UCLA, where he received his MFA in screenwriting. A Rhodes Scholar, he has written for film, theater, television and many national publications. He has won or been a finalist for many awards, and credits include the hit film On Deadly Ground with Steven Seagal. His other scripts have been bought or optioned by studio and independent producers, and he co-produced the film Shark In A Bottle. He has written, produced and/or directed for America's Most Wanted, was Senior Producer of ABC's Vital Signs, and co-produced Alcatraz--the True Story on FOX. His original pilot and bible sold to ABC, now adapted and in production as Of Kings and Prophets. Among his produced plays are Painted Eggs and The Face in the Reeds. Robin taught at UCLA and is currently Full Professor of screenwriting at UC Riverside. WILLIAM MISSOURI DOWNS Bill earned an MFA in screenwriting from UCLA and an MFA in acting from the University of Illinois. For many years, he studied playwriting under Lanford Wilson and Milan Stitt at the Circle Rep Theatre in New York. In Hollywood he wrote for such NBC sitcoms as My Two Dads, Amen and Fresh Prince Of Bel Air. He sold the movie Executive Privilege to Tri-star, and won the Jack Nicholson Award for screenwriting. His plays have been produced all over the world, from the Kennedy Center to the Berkeley Rep, and from the International Theatre festival in Israel to the Hexis in Singapore. A few highlights are: Innocent Thoughts winner of the National Playwrights Award, Jewish Sports Heroes and Texas Intellectuals, which took first place at the Mill Mountain Theatre's Festival Of New Plays, Dead White Males a Eugene O'Neill semi-finalist and Kabuki Medea, winner of the Bay Area Critics Award for best production in San Francisco and the Jefferson Award for best production in Chicago. Bill is the co-author of the book, Playwriting: From Formula To Form, published by Harcourt Brace. He lives in Wyoming.