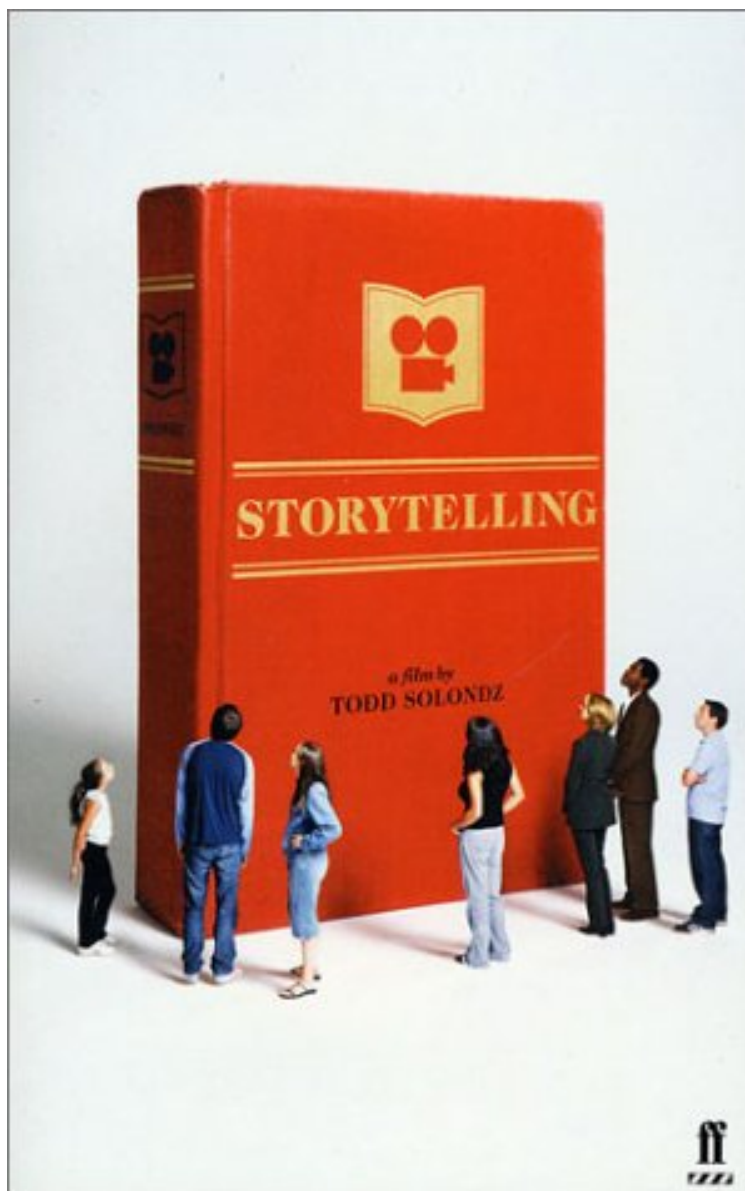


Storytelling

Todd Solondz

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Todd Solondz : Storytelling before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Storytelling:

2 of 13 people found the following review helpful. This is not a book about screenwriting or storytelling By Evolving Knowledge This is from the back cover, "[Todd Solondz] offers two separate stories ('Fiction' and 'Non-Fiction') that unfold amid the sadly comical terrain of college and high school. In the first, a young female student has a stranger-

than-fiction sexual encounter with her creative writing tutor. In the second, a struggling documentarian sets out to faithfully record the life and thoughts of an ordinary American adolescent, but finds himself irresistibly drawn to the exploitative possibilities of the material. "If this description had been available to me I would have never purchased the book. The only reason I did buy the book was because it appeared when doing a search for screenwriting books. I'll pass judgment on the readability of the book since I'm am not in the target audience of high school seniors who are college bound. How anyone can attempt to compare this book to any of the vast number of screenwriting books available is beyond imagination. Maybe they haven't read Robert McKee's "Story," or Laos Egri's "The Art of Dramatic Writing." If I can save one person from wasting their money the effort will have been worth it. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Oy vey, the schmucks abound! By William T. Heard Woops, look like Mr. "I'm not a college bound high school senior" should've done a little more research into his purchase. Actually, if he had READ the book instead of passing on, he might've gotten a better lesson in screenwriting than any Syd Field or Michael Hague book can provide. If you want to write screenplays, read screenplays; and you can't go wrong with Todd Solondz if you want guidance in excellent character development.

As in his earlier screenplays, Todd Solondz peers deeply into the underside of American suburban life and concerns in *Storytelling*, with sometimes shocking, sometimes hilarious, results. The film is in two parts: "Fiction" deals with the relationship between students and their black teacher in a college creative writing class while hammering away in decidedly non-PC fashion at the most sensitive social and political concerns of our time: race, sex, prejudice against the disabled. "Nonfiction" follows the attempts of an underachieving documentary filmmaker to capture the day-to-day life of an underachieving high-school student and his family--with surprisingly horrifying results. The film--which stars John Goodman and Julie Hagerty as the parents in the second part of the movie--caused something of a sensation when it was first shown at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2001.

"Dark, antisocial, amusing and mean-spirited . . . cleverly written and always engaging. Perhaps the funniest thing about *Storytelling* . . . is how Solondz anticipates every possible objection to his work and explicitly responds within the context of the stories." --Todd McCarthy, *Variety*