



The Tools of Screenwriting: A Writer's Guide to the Craft and Elements of a Screenplay

By David Howard, Edward Mabley

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In *The Tools of Screenwriting*, David Howard and Edward Mabley illuminate the essential elements of cinematic storytelling, and reveal the central principles that all good screenplays share. The authors address questions of dramatic structure, plot, dialogue, character development, setting, imagery, and other crucial topics as they apply to the special art of filmmaking.

Howard and Mabley also demonstrate how, on a practical level, the tools of screenwriting work in sixteen notable films, including *Citizen Kane*, *E.T.*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Rashomon*, *The Godfather*, *North by Northwest*, *Chinatown*, and *sex, lies, and videotape*.

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- Sales Rank: #249259 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 1995-01-15
- Released on: 1995-01-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.12" h x 21.08" w x 5.45" l, .64 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A comprehensive guide to writing screenplays by an experienced screenwriter and a respected writing teacher. Along with sections on the screenwriter's craft, basic storytelling, and the parts and objectives of a screenplay, the book is distinguished by detailed analyses of sixteen successful films' screenplays, including the likes of *E.T.*, *Some Like It Hot*, *North by Northwest*, *Citizen Kane*, and *Annie Hall*.

Review

"David Howard calls this book 'a writer's guide.' I think it's a wonderful and indispensable producer's guide to story, storytelling, and screenwriting." ?*Lawrence Turman, producer of The Graduate, Running Scared, The Flim-Flam Man, and other films*

"What David Howard has done with *The Tools of Screenwriting* is to reveal for me and for all readers just how stories work; he shows that there are no absolute rules, but there are principles that can help a beginning writer gain understanding of all the elements that go into the creation of a 'good story well told.'" ?*Diane Keaton*

"*The Tools of Screenwriting* is the best primer on the craft, far better than the usual paint-by-the-numbers sort of books that abound." ?*Frank Pierson, Academy Award-winning screenwriter of Cool Hand Luke, Dog Day Afternoon, Presumed Innocent, and A Star is Born*

From the Back Cover

Screenwriting is the art of telling stories dramatically - and it can be learned. Although there is no standard formula for writing a screenplay, there are central principles that all good screenplays share. In *The Tools of Screenwriting*, the authors illuminate the essential elements of cinematic storytelling. These elements are guideposts for the aspiring screenwriter, and they can be used in different ways to accomplish a variety of ends. Questions of dramatic structure, plot, dialogue, character development, setting, imagery, and other crucial topics are discussed as they apply to the special art of filmmaking. The authors demonstrate how the tools of screenwriting work in sixteen notable films, including *Citizen Kane*, *E.T.*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Rashomon*, *The Godfather*, *North by Northwest*, *Chinatown*, and *sex, lies, and videotape*. In the analyses of these films, the reader will discover the common elements of compelling screen stories. *The Tools of Screen writing* is an essential book for anyone who wants to write a script that will be filmed.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Luis Acosta:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *The Tools of Screenwriting: A Writer's Guide to the Craft and Elements of a Screenplay*. Try to make book *The Tools of Screenwriting: A Writer's Guide to the Craft and Elements of a Screenplay* as your friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you feel alone and

beside that of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunate for yourself. The book makes you much more confident because you can know everything by the book. So, let me make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Donovan Pena:

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Lou Bryant:

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