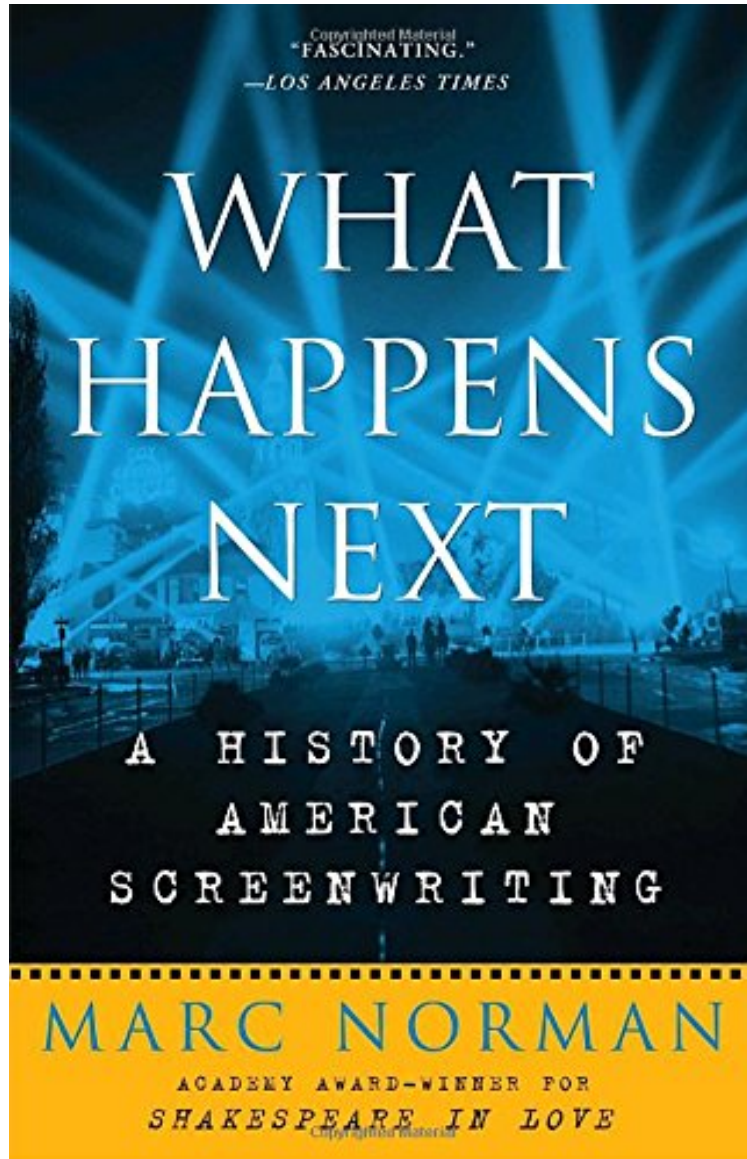


[Library ebook] What Happens Next: A History of American Screenwriting

What Happens Next: A History of American Screenwriting

Marc Norman

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Marc Norman : What Happens Next: A History of American Screenwriting before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Happens Next: A History of American Screenwriting:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Story of Storytellers By CustomerOK, two quibbles, both factual: In the Kindle edition, Norman calls Oscar Hammerstein II a composer. He was not. He was a lyricist who collaborated with composers. He also refers to Mike Nichols having a background as a standup comic. He did not.

Nichols teamed with Elaine May to play satiric scenes. He didn't bat out jokes and observations (the realm of the standup), he acted in material he created with May out of improvisation. Which makes me wonder if the book were copy-edited. Quibbles aside, I gulped this book down. Yes, there are people I would have liked to have read about. And I think more could have been made about the screenwriters like the Davids (Chase, Milch and Simon) who have shifted to TV (particularly HBO) where they've got power and respect and where the writing is now better than in most movies. I also think he could have paid attention to the influence the improvisational-satirical companies like Second City had on American screenwriting (Paul Mazursky, Harold Ramis, Dan Aykroyd, Alan Alda, David Mamet, etc.), but then I wrote a book about Second City and the subject's of particular interest to me. But as a coherent story that provides the context for most of the major challenges, controversies and battles screenwriters have had to face, this pretty much hits the spot. I was particularly interested to learn of the influence the Dramatists Guild contract had on the politics of the Writers Guild. (I sit on the Council of the Dramatists Guild, and this was news to me.) Norman's prose style goes down easy, and his talent as a story-teller makes the struggles of these introverted creatures dramatic and often poignant. I do hope he's working on more of his own screenplays. *SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE* (which he modestly doesn't mention in this text) was one of the best-written films in years. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant. By Chronic-Complainer Brilliant, brilliant, brilliant. Thorough and engrossing. There can be no better praise for this book than it drove me to then buy biographies of Sturges, Wilder and Trumbo. And a half-dozen of their scripts. And I'm only up to page 204. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What happens next is a great read. By Warren J. Graffeo Marc Norman brings his considerable knowledge to the topic of screenwriting history. His views and anecdotes on film making, particularly in the early days, is not only informative, but entertaining as well. I have read several books that claim to be a complete history, but none come close to this one. It is fascinating to see how screenwriting went from an ad-hoc off the cuff verbal technique to the sophisticated rituals we practice today. I found the stories of writers who became directors interesting, but more importantly one of the messages early on in the book describes the advantages of a writer actually having experience in acting or directing. I totally agree with that concept and have followed it myself. I am recommending this book for our next screenwriting class in the university where I teach.

Fascinating. Los Angeles Times A brilliant, wildly entertaining history of Hollywood from the screenwriters perspective. In this truly fresh take on the movies, veteran Oscar-winning screenwriter Marc Norman gives us the first comprehensive history of the men and women who penned some of the greatest movies of all time. Impeccably researched, erudite, and filled with unforgettable stories of the stars and scribes, amateurs and auteurs, directors, producers, and legendary moguls, *What Happens Next* is a unique and engrossing narrative of the quintessential art form of our time.

Fascinating. Los Angeles Times A remarkable synthesis . . . the best, by far. Scott Eyman, New York Observer A history of American film in which the camera pans away from its presumptive stars and searches out the ink-stained wretches huddled over typewriters. San Francisco Chronicle Irreplaceable . . . Without question, the best treatment of the subject since Richard Corliss's *Talking Pictures* in 1974. Buffalo News Excellent . . . A book that deserves to become a classic of the genre. The Times (London) Marc Norman is not only a wonderful and talented screenwriter in his own right, but he has done a great job of laying out screenwriting's evolution in this excellent, comprehensive history. A must read for anyone who wants to know this important piece of the puzzle of Hollywood. Mike Medavoy A stunningly entertaining way to tell the history of Hollywood. But what's amazing about this wonderful book is not just that it's relentlessly insightful, constantly surprising and beautifully written, what's amazing is that no one has done this before. This is one terrific book. Phil Robinson, author (screenplay) of *Field of Dreams* Marc Norman's *What Happens Next* is not only a fine book, it's a necessary book, brilliantly narrating the turbulent saga of 100 years of American screenwriting with energy, style, and an insider's sympathetic understanding of the always uneasy marriage between a primarily visual medium and the people who use words as its architecture. Scott Eyman, author, *Lion of Hollywood* "Marc Norman has created a comprehensive narrative of what is essentially a secret history. Entertaining, surprising and endlessly fascinating, he throws a bright light into a corner of our film heritage that has been habitually, even criminally, ignored." Lawrence Kasdan, co-screenwriter and director of *The Big Chill* "At last! Hollywood History from a screenwriting perspective a compelling, enlightening, and important work." Dave Trotter, author *The Screenwriter's Bible* From the Hardcover edition. About the Author MARC NORMAN won two Oscars for *Shakespeare in Love* in 1999, one for Best Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen (with Tom Stoppard) and another for Best Picture (shared with Donna Gigliotti, David Partt, Harvey Weinstein, and Edward Zwick), along with a Golden Globe, a Writers Guild Best Screenplay Award, a New York Film Critics Circle Award, a BAFTA Award, and a Silver Bear Award from the Berlin Film Festival. He lives in Santa Monica, California. This is his first work of nonfiction. From the Hardcover edition.