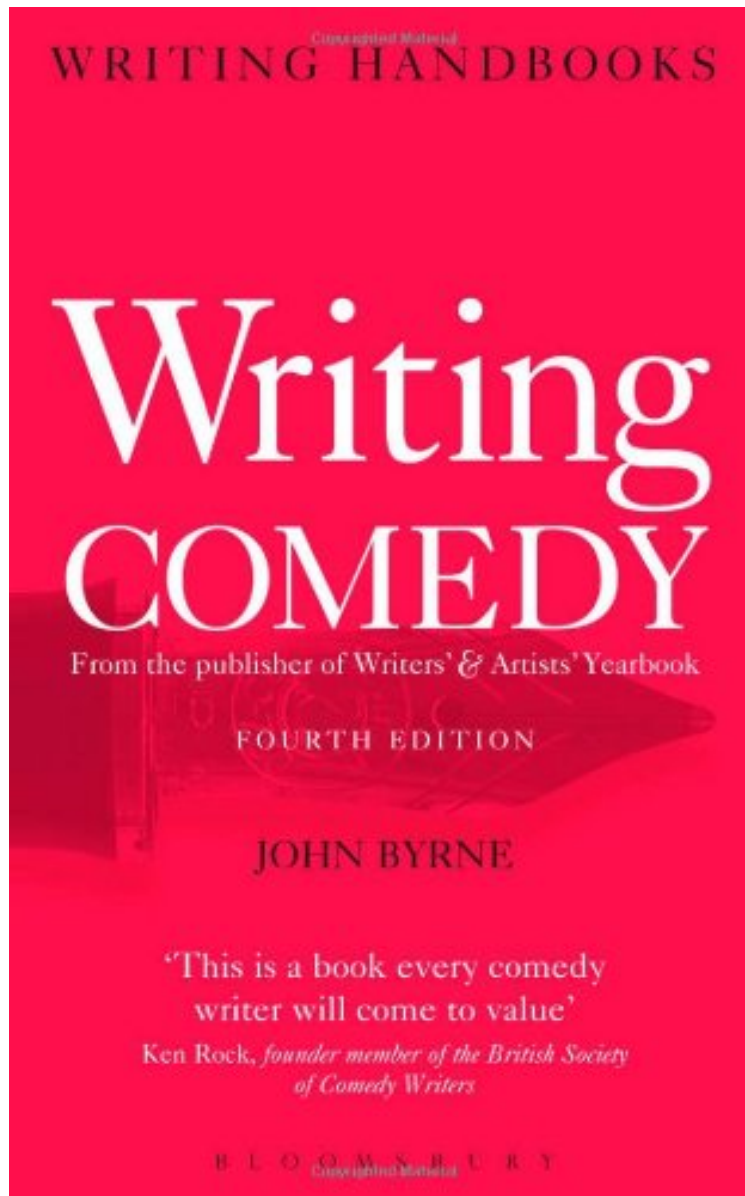


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## Writing Comedy (Writing Handbooks)

*John Byrne*

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**John Byrne : Writing Comedy (Writing Handbooks)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writing Comedy (Writing Handbooks):

2 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Who IS John Byrne anyway?!By R. LewisThose that can DO - those that can't TEACH.John Byrne's book on comedy is a joke - a self-described "successful" comedian no UK stand-up

fans have ever seen or heard perform thinks he has the right to teach comedy. Byrne has never performed on British TV, you never see his name headlining major comedy clubs, nor on the writing credits of a successful tv sitcom. Yet he believes he can teach how to be a success at all of these. And the book's contents? Well if you think you can become a successful comedian using dated techniques like puns and malaprops, good luck to you. But don't expect to be headlining the Comedy Store thanks to anything you'll read in this dated, irrelevant and misleading travesty of a book. 8 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Awesome handbook full of practical advice regarding how to be a comedy writer and how to make a career of it. By Jeff Lippincott I'm a sucker for just about any "how-to" book written on comedy. I don't purchase all the ones that I find, but the good ones get me to pull the wallet out. I pulled the wallet out for this one! What a great resource for someone interested in comedy writing. There are kinda two books in one in this tome. One part covers the basics of writing comedy, and the other part covers how to make a career as a comedy writer. It also distinguishes comedy writers from comedy performers - the two are not necessarily one and the same. This book is about comedy writing - not comedy performing. But don't pass up this book just because you don't intend to be a professional comedy writer. Any writing that is intended for an audience will probably be better received (and enjoyed?) if it includes at least a touch of comedy or humor in it. If you are a consultant who writes books, ebooks, and/or creates and delivers seminars and workshops, then you will do yourself a favor to get this book and study its contents. If you are a member of Toastmasters and want some insight on how to tackle the Humorous Speech manual, then consider getting this book. The author has over 20 years experience as a comedy professional and he's written over 40 books. The quality of this book exudes all that experience. It's very informative and well-written. And being a 3rd edition says a lot about the book. It's been around and has been made better with each edition. It was a pleasure to read. 5 stars!

Comedy has always been one of the most high profile, glamorous and potentially lucrative markets for scriptwriters but it is also perceived as one of the hardest. In the fourth edition of this highly regarded handbook, John Byrne breaks down the basics of writing comedy into simple steps and shows you how to make the most of your own comedy writing talent and, just as importantly, your ability to market that talent. Writing Comedy 4th edition is a practical manual for the beginner, as well as for the more experienced writer, in developing the skills to be a successful professional comedy writer. It deals with the mechanics of comedy writing, outlining the basic structures from the simple gag to more complex long-term projects, and the organization of one's career as a writer. The book features simple tried-and-tested techniques which all comedy writers use to generate and refine comedy ideas. Here is a wealth of practical advice both on how to get your career off the ground and on how to keep developing it. Whether you are writing comedy routines, sketches, sitcoms and aiming your work at the page, the stage or the ever expanding world of broadcasting, you will find something in this book to encourage, inform and inspire you. As with any art form the basics of good comedy never go out of fashion, and while the easy steps in this book are illustrated with examples of work by classic comedians new and old, in this new edition, you will find also useful advice on developing and adapting your work for the 21st century market, whether your aim is to promote your work online or simply to keep your gags fresh and topical in a world where the news changes by the minute and gets flashed around the world in seconds.

John Byrne is the guru when it comes to advice on building a successful comedy career. Unlike many advisors, he's been there and done it himself. He knows the joys and sorrows of the comedy world and is best placed to help budding comedians make the most of their talent. Jasmine Birtles, financial journalist, author, columnist for Independent This is a book every comedy writer will come to value. Ken Rock, founder member of the British Society of Comedy Writers About the Author John Byrne has over 20 years of experience as a writer, broadcaster and performer, as well as working as a personal advisor to many top performers and entertainers, both one-to-one and via his popular weekly advice column in The Stage. He has worked for Radio 4, Five, BBC World Service, Virgin Radio and Nickelodeon, Private Eye and the Guardian, has managed a number of successful performers, and has been script doctor on various theatre shows. Broadcast appearances include BBC London, Sky News and E4's "Get Your Act Together with Harvey Goldsmith". He regularly lectures on arts careers for events such as Actors Expo, the Edinburgh Festival and institutions such as The Guildhall, BIMM and The Brits School.