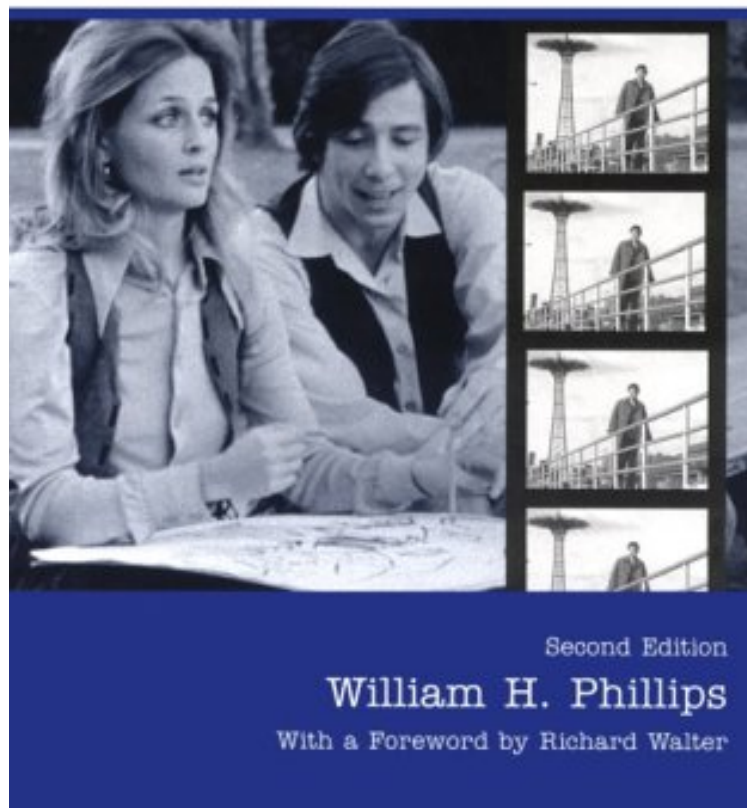


Writing Short Scripts

William Phillips

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Writing Short Scripts



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William Phillips : Writing Short Scripts before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Writing Short Scripts:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. First assignment in my screenwriting class....What a joke.By Craig BurleighI was assigned to read the first 13 pages of this book before my screenwriting class. I have never read

anything on a creative subject that was so discouraging and negative. Everything about what I read was extremely biased and opinionated. The whole first 13 pages pretty much summed up a list of things that the author does not enjoy or approve of. If you were thinking about pursuing a career in screenwriting but think that you should really just give up and choose a different career, this book will push you in the right direction. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Great book focused on Short film development By Phil Lee Phillips' book is one of the best that focuses on development of the Short film. The Short is a script of less than 30 pgs. He is a perpetual "Visiting Professor" at U Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Department of English means that he is free to teach and to consult to industry, but no tenure. His book is unique in that he concentrates on the story development process. A large section of the book contains the full script of 5 shorts; which include two from former film students of his while at Cal State - Stanislaus, and two that have won awards as major film school thesis short films. He includes these short scripts because few are available published or on-line for download. There are three Parts in the book; Getting Started, Example Short Scripts, and Writing Scripts. The book includes an Intro by his mentor Richard Walter at UCLA Film school, an Epilogue, Bibliography, List of Film and Video Shorts, Short Film Distributors, and Index. The most important section is in Part I which includes Nine Writing Exercises, especially #6, #7 and #8. The next most important features of the book are the last two film scripts. This Reviewer has found that "Avenue X (94)" by Leslie McCleave, Dir Screenplay, had a film trailer on YouTube (aLc2t2Yofrk) and is listed on IMDb (tt0346546). In addition a complete script of "The Resurrection of Broncho Billy (1970, 21min, Universal Studio, a theatre Short opener for 2 yrs)" was produced by USC Film student, John Longenecker, and won an Oscar Short award. YouTube has the complete short (albeit with Italian subtitles) at (WsWQF1H5uSY) + (pqwV_OnoL1g).-----Part I: Getting Started Chap1 Finding Sources. The best are from personal experience (echo from Richard Walter, UCLA Film screenwriting). p4 If from an idea, then the story becomes an illustrated lecture. p6 Avoid a topic that is too recent as one may not be aware of significance points. p8 "Although your script should begin with an experience you know well, it should never end there. You must transform the experience into a fictional script." p9 Fragments of an autobiography rarely make good scripts. As Hitchcock says, Drama is life with dull parts left out. p9 Thus good screenwriters know to cut, transform and rearrange events, and change and invent characters. They can show us more, in sharper focus (detail and patterns), and more quickly than life itself. p11 Keep a daily Journal, written and recorded while exercising. p12 1) Show people talking and interacting. 2) Show, don't tell; instead of explaining what is funny or sad, write in a way that *is* funny or sad. 3) Use concrete words; not abstract like "beautiful, nice, very, brave." p13 Additional tips on Journal writing and *Types* of writing. This Journal is for your eyes only. 1. Events that stick powerfully in your memory a. argument that changed a relationship you had b. perplexing experience you suffered through c. experience that led to a surprising conclusion d. experience about people that was the first time 2. Dialogs that reveals what people are like 3. Outlines or Summaries of stories on how people behave p14 Nine Writing exercises 1. Focused Freewriting 2. Emotional reactions 3. Pixs and strong emotions 4. Experiences that teaches you something; read out loud, revise 5. Experiences that generate mixed feelings; fictionalize and create scenes and dialog 6. Imagine two characters talking with tension; reveal the tension with action and dialog. Rewrite and edit, add gestures and tone of voice where necessary. Dialog needs to be natural yet compressed and revealing than real conversation. Do a reading and analyze. 7. Write scene three chars under conflict p16 8. Tape 2-3 friends conversing for 30min. Transcribe a 5-10min highlight in a continuous segment. Choose couple pages that best describe their personalities. "Last rewrite, condense and focus conversation so that it conveys much in few words yet still seems natural." Some writers eavesdrop on people then re-create their dialogue. 9. Many film scenes have no dialog. Actions and settings show us what their like. Write up concisely.-----Part II: Five sample short scripts Chap7: Scripts and Films: Goals and Means. Know your audience. Analyzes: Visuals: p153 the silent visual sections of "Billy," concise dialog; p156 dialog sections of "Billy," p160 30 words; p157 depressing emotion dialog of "Lady's Man" by Dale Melgaard p160 "Lawrence of Arabia (62)" Rbt Bolt, screenplay, 7 Oscars, DLean Dir; (Dr Zhivago (65) DLean, Dir 5 Oscars, SP; A Man for All Seasons (67) 6 Oscars, FZinnemann, Dir.) Stories: p162 SW need to describe the scene settings well. Indirectly reveal the character, also the mood. p164 Develop only 2 chars in a Short. "Billy" scene diagrams. p166 Checklist on character development flaws, time. p167 Walter Brown Newman (16-93), "Cat Ballou (65)" Oscar actor; keep only the essentials: "You tell the audience only what they need to know--no more. And as little of that as possible" p168 effective ending -- communicate complexity of human nature -- conflicting emotions and opposing loyalties-----Part III: Writing Scripts -- before you begin Chap8. Planning. p178 Discovery or treatment drafts, Scenes cards, take a break. Chap9. Writing. p185 Write first draft Chap10. Rewriting. p194 Script checklists. Edit using correct format.----As the last tidbit on Shorts, YouTube has "Two men and a wardrobe (57, 15min)" by Roman Polanski, dir screenplay. No dialog (nponsMD-Sn4) 8 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Insightful Book About Short Film Scripts By A Customer WRITING SHORT SCRIPTS by William H. Phillips WRITING SHORT SCRIPTS is a very insightful book about writing short scripts. The Author has included his perceptive comments about the structure of short film scripts, and has thankfully included the texts of the short film scripts that he writes about. THE RESURRECTION OF BRONCHO BILLY (1970) is one of the short films included in the book. A number of photos from the film are included as well. "BRONCHO BILLY" is the classic Academy Award Winning live action short film starring

JOHNNY CRAWFORD and KRISTIN NELSON. JOHN CARPENTER created the Original Music and was the film editor. NICK CASTLE was the Cinematographer. It is shot like a classic western, but the setting is the big city in present time. The hero dreams of being a cowboy, and actually rides off into the sunset with the girl. It is a movie, with some cinematic wonderful license. The entire shooting script is included in the book. It is simple, straight forward, and it includes JOHNNY CRAWFORD'S improvised dialogue from the famous "Park Bench Scene" with KRISTIN NELSON, where he goes on about John Wayne, and Gary Cooper, and when asked if he has a horse, says: "Well, not all cowboys have their own horse." THE RESURRECTION OF BRONCHO BILLY (1970) was released by Universal Studios, to motion picture theaters across the U.S. and Canada for 104 weeks, and holds the record as the most financially successful live action short film in the history of the studio. Ironically, as the book tells us, the filmmakers were all just starting out on their motion picture careers and were attending classes at the Cinema Department at the University of Southern California at the time they made the picture. That is inspiring for young filmmakers everywhere. If you are interested in short films, this book includes details about "BRONCHO BILLY" and several other excellent short films as a reference on short film script writing. If you may write a short film yourself, this is one book that you should own and read.

A guide designed to help the beginning writer enter the world of short films, from travelogues to animated shorts.