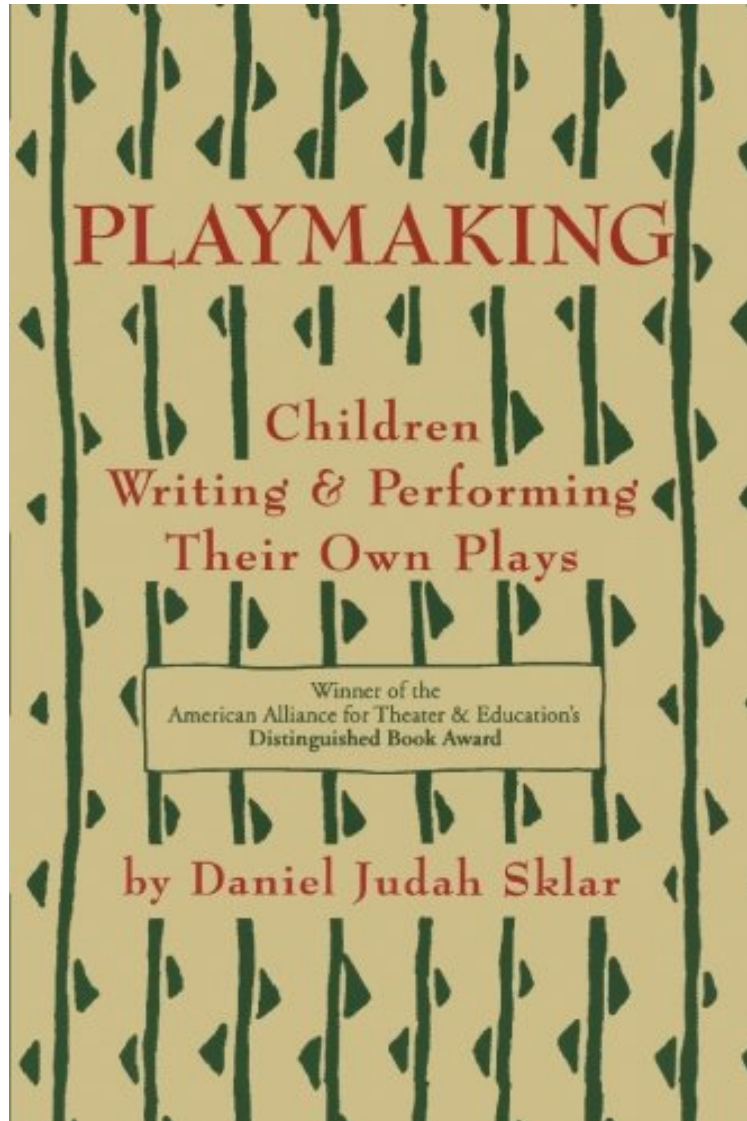


Playmaking

Daniel Judah Sklar

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Daniel Judah Sklar : Playmaking before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Playmaking:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Playmaking: Used over and over again, successfullyBy Mr. SeeI looked and looked for a good playwriting book for kids. I finally found this one and have used it in my 6th grade drama class for a half dozen years. It took a little while for me to transfer Sklar's ideas into workable strategies, but it helped that the writer used a narrative format to "tell the true story" about his experiences with a 5th grade inner city classroom. His play production and performance chapters are somewhat difficult for me to incorporate, and seem a

little impractical. But the getting kids to write from knowing their characters--their wants and desires, which leads to conflict--AND to write from their own experiences (called "baffling moments"), is pretty powerful and engaging. Some of the best activities he suggests (from other theater pros like Spolin) are getting the students up and improvising, which 12 year olds must do (and which they love). Many students have written some truly amazing plays, which have been performed successfully (although several have written drivel). With some plays, I've had to do a little censoring (which I detest doing), due to some too explicit student realities. Although Sklar does show how to allow non-writers and non-actors to be included in the performance process (my classes always have the whole spectrum of abilities), I still have trouble with it. Perhaps one reason is because his timetable for the entire process seems a lot shorter than mine. Through the years, I have incorporated my own ideas from my own experiences in how to write and then perform plays (as well as the ideas and experiences of my students and a couple other books by Maureen Brady Johnson). But, by and large, I have stuck pretty close to Sklar's methods. Looking at all the books out there that are ok, average, or mediocre, I would go so far as to say he has written a classic.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderful guild to playmaking with children
By Judith Woodruff
If you really want a good book and guide that will inspire you, get this book. I gave it to a friend who is now keeping a journal based on the book about his work with children. I consider it indispensable.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing!
By April D. Sayegh
This book is a must for anyone just starting out with teaching theatre to children. It is well-conceived and presented, consistently keeping the reader involved in the "process." In addition to learning about playmaking as the story unfolds, Daniel Sklar provides brief lesson plan outlines to help us more easily utilize his information in a teacher friendly format.

Sklar's personal account of teaching dramatic writing, direction, and performance, to a group of 7th graders in the South Bronx, reveals the planning and execution of his lessons. It also addresses the reception such lessons received including resistance. Teachers and Artists-in-Residence stand to gain much from this book, since it deals with real life dynamics in the classroom and necessary strategies for getting through a project in a thought-provoking, fun, and creative way for everyone participating.