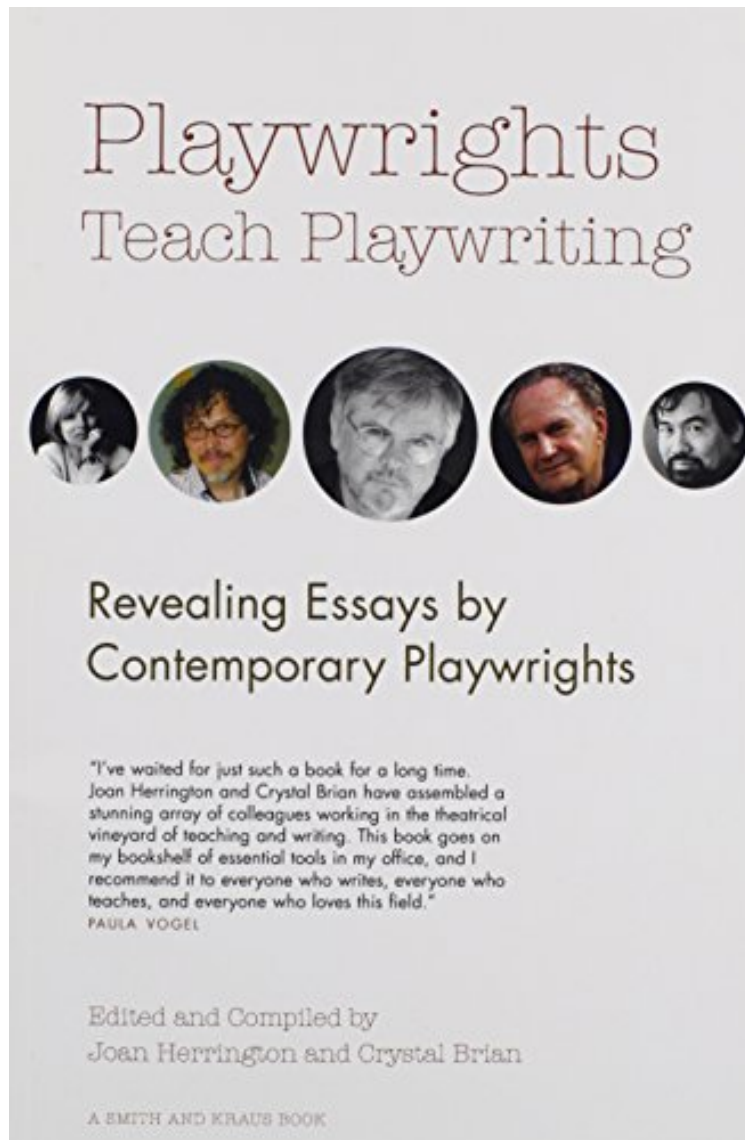


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Playwrights Teach Playwriting (Career Development Series)

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From Brand: Smith n Kraus Pub Inc : Playwrights Teach Playwriting (Career Development Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Playwrights Teach Playwriting (Career Development Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent bookBy R. Gaffneyfull of great observations, ideas from contemporary playwrights enhanced by the authors' knowledgeable introduction. Not a how-to, by-the-numbers book, but one that explores the spirit within the writer and the work; the art and soul as well as the 'science' of it. Kind of like

sitting down one-on-one with Tony Kushner or Tina Howe, to name just two of the playwrights in this book. Both intimate and practical, *Playwrights Teach Playwriting* is one of my favorite books. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A gift for teachers
By Michelle Carter I hope the editors of this book check their page from time to time so I can thank them for putting together this book. I've only recently started teaching playwriting and one thing I knew I didn't want to do was make students endure cold reads of their work and their fellow students' scattershot critiques. I also knew I wanted to keep students as far away as possible from the crappy textbooks I've read ("...you cannot write a word until you have a premise!" ...) As the other reviewer said, these editors have collected thoughtful, generous essays by playwrights who teach very differently from one another, but all from the heart. A tremendously stimulating read for playwriting teachers, and for writers in any genre. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Exactly what I've been looking for
By Phil Keeling As a playwright and a teacher, I have often found and read books on both sides of the spectrum. I've read many a book on playwriting, and I've read books on teaching. For the first time in my experience, I've found a book of essays on the art of teaching playwrights. Not only is this an incredibly well thought out series of essays, it covers a variety of opinions and feelings on the topic. The most interesting part of this book comes from the fact that, in many cases, these authors disagree. Some of the writers talk about teaching structure in their classes. Others are disgusted by the idea of teaching structure- instead leaning in the direction of finishing the play in whatever way it desires to be written. The opinions expressed in this book are simultaneously profound, interesting, and entertaining. I highly recommend this book to playwriting teachers, teachers who write plays, and playwrights who have never taught a day in their lives. It's wonderful.

Playwrights Teach Playwriting, edited by Joan Herrington and Crystal Brian, is a collection unique in the realm of "how-to" playwriting books. These essays by such well-known playwrights as Chris Durang, Marsha Norman, Tina Howe, Tony Kushner, David Henry Hwang, Marie Irene Fornes, Jos Rivera, Romulus Linney, Mac Wellman, Donald Margulies explore the pedagogy of playwriting, offering fascinating and valuable insights into the way established playwrights communicate their own creative methods to young writers. Each of the playwrights included in the book has extensive experience as a teacher in a variety of venues. Their chapters offer insight into the unique vision of each playwright and provide practical and tested advice, exercises, and course structures for both students and teachers of playwriting. A concluding essay by dramaturg and literary manager, Mead Hunter, offers career advice for beginning as well as emerging playwrights.

About the Author Joan Harrington is Chair of the Theatre Department at Western Michigan University. Her two books, *The Playwright's Muse* and *I Ain't Sorry for Nothin' I Done: August Wilson's Process of Playwriting*, and numerous recent articles all explore the creative process of writing and directing. Dr. Harrington currently serves as the editor of *Theatre Topics*. Crystal Brian is an associate professor and director of the theater program at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut. She holds an MFA and PhD in Theater from the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition to her work as an award-winning professional director and producer of such playwrights as Horton Foote and Tina Howe (her world-premiere production of Foote's *The Day Emily Married* was named one of the top twenty productions in Southern California by the *Los Angeles Times*), she has published articles about Foote's work and is currently completing a critical biography of the playwright.