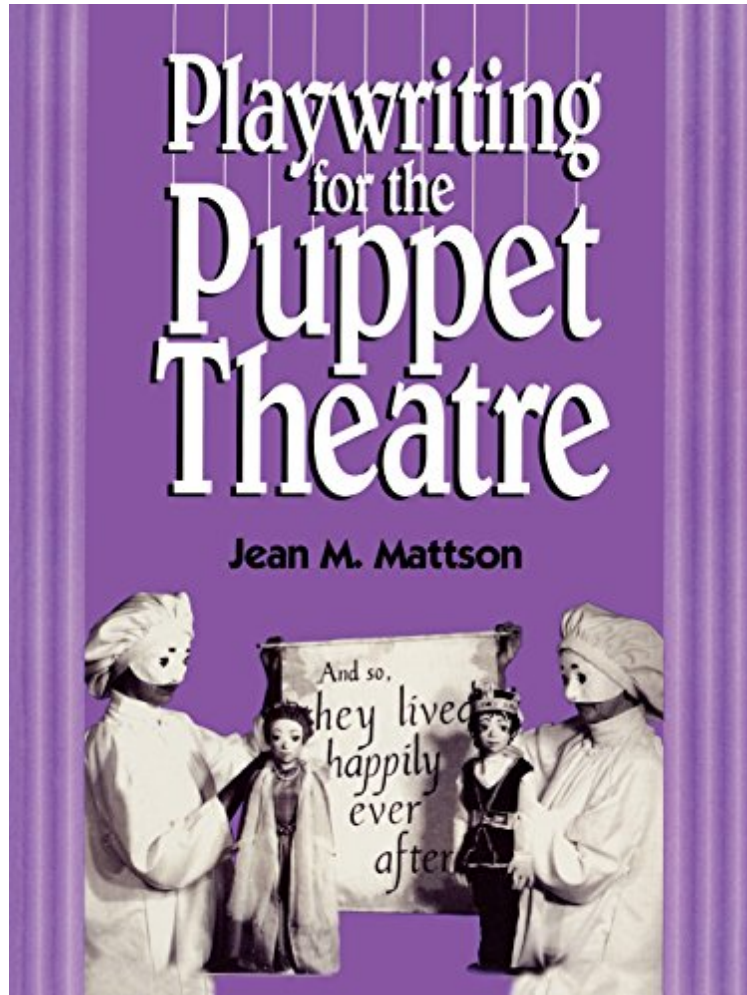


## Playwriting for Puppet Theatre

Jean M. Mattson

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**Jean M. Mattson : Playwriting for Puppet Theatre** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Playwriting for Puppet Theatre:

7 of 19 people found the following review helpful. THIS BOOK WAS UNEXPECTEDLY FUN TO READ. By A Customer I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO ANYONE WHO GIVES PRESENTATIONS TO A DIVERSE GROUP OF PEOPLE.

Playwriting for Puppet Theatre provides a foundation for those puppeteers, teachers and librarians who want to develop suitable scripts for puppet theatre. Mattson explores the difference between traditional theatre and puppet theatre and notes the special characteristics of the various puppets. The important aspects of script writing are then addressed. She considers the many general questions which must be answered by the playwright: the type of puppet to

be used, the audience, and availability of resources and facilities. Suggestions are then given for dramatizing original ideas and for adapting well-known stories. The chapter on plot development emphasizes the importance of perspective, transitional material and the need for action. One chapter proposes various ways to develop a character through dialogue, names, and behavior. Another chapter demonstrates how the use of rhyme can add interest and humor to a puppet play. Teachers will find suggestions on how to develop a play on a specific theme or about a specific character. Some attention is also given to the mechanics of writing a play. Includes a group of puppet plays which have been successfully performed by Seattle Puppetory Theatre. Among them are Rumpelstiltskin, The Princess and the Pea, The Bad-Tempered Wife, The Golden Axe, The Swineherd, and The Fisherman and His Wife. Production notes follow each script. Several samples of manipulation charts are included which may be used as an aid in blocking the puppets and the puppeteers for the various hand puppet productions.

...Mattson has gathered her wisdom into a practical guide to playwriting for the puppet theatre. Readers will find it a rich resource. (The Puppetry Journal)...a concise but comprehensive briefing on many aspects of the expertise required to mount a puppet play. Nothing is taken for granted...both introductory and specialised advice is included...a practical and business-like guide, starting from square one, which will be invaluable for teachers interested in this neglected branch of children's theatre. (School Librarian)About the AuthorJean M. Mattson is artistic director of the Seattle Puppetory Theatre.