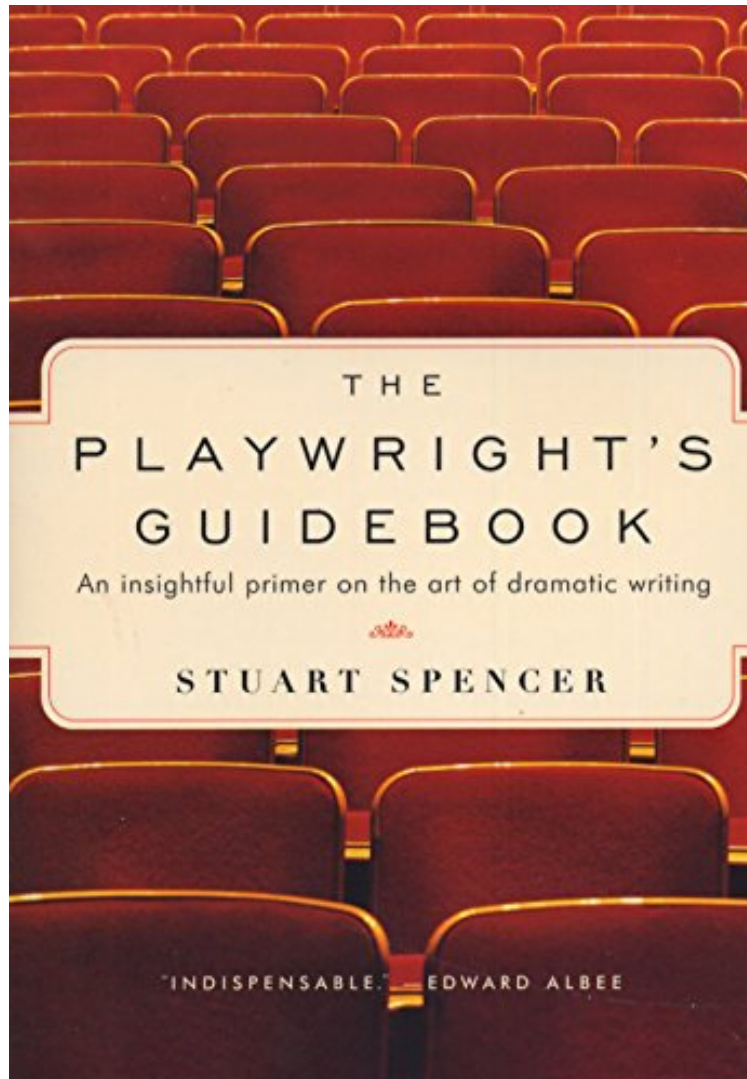


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The Playwright's Guidebook: An Insightful Primer on the Art of Dramatic Writing

Stuart Spencer

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#42135 in Books Stuart Spencer 2002-03-29 2002-03-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.15 x 1.04 x 5.56l, .77 #File Name: 0571199917400 pages The Playwright s Guidebook An Insightful Primer on the Art of Dramatic Writing | File size: 41.Mb

Stuart Spencer : The Playwright's Guidebook: An Insightful Primer on the Art of Dramatic Writing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Playwright's Guidebook: An Insightful Primer on the Art of Dramatic Writing:

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Guide
By Aviva Butt
This book is better than I could ever have hoped for. It is sort of an equivalent to Syd Field's guide to screenwriting, but is an up-to-date guide for writing stage plays. Stuart Spencer seems to have an in-depth knowledge of how creativity works, a definitely modern approach. It is a pleasant experience reading this book and I hope it will help me to adapt my knowledge of writing so that I will be able to write a stage play.

An accessible, contemporary guide to the art of dramatic writing
During the ten years that Stuart Spencer has taught playwriting, he has struggled to find an effective playwriting handbook for his courses. Although most of the currently popular handbooks have good ideas in them, they all suffer from the same problems: they're poorly organized; are composed mostly of quirky, idiosyncratic advice on how specific playwrights have gone about writing their own work; and are full of abstract theorizing on the nature of art. As a result, they fail to offer any concrete information on how to construct a well-written play or any useful guidelines and exercises. Moreover, few of these books are actually written by working playwrights. Out of frustration, Spencer wrote his own book. The result, *The Playwright's Guidebook*, is a clear, concise, and engaging handbook. Spencer addresses the important principles of structure, includes insightful writing exercises that build upon one another, explores the creative process, and troubleshoots recurrent problems that playwrights actually face.

From Publishers Weekly
A practical compendium based on author Stuart Spencer's experience crafting plays (*Resident Alien*; *The Rothko Room*; etc.) and teaching at Sarah Lawrence College, *The Playwright's Guidebook* offers counsel on issues like structure, conflict, character and problem-solving. This contemporary guide fills the gaps left open by many books, supplying organized and realistic advice for would-be playwrights. As Spencer says, "A play is more wrought than written. A playwright constructs a play as a wheelwright once constructed a wheel: a general shape is laid out, and then hammered, bent, nailed, reshaped, hammered again and again, until finally a functional and artful product has emerged." Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
Spencer has written many plays (*Resident Alien* is his most recent) and has taught playwriting at Sarah Lawrence College for the last ten years. Frustrated by not being able to find a playwriting handbook that addressed key issues and also included useful exercises, he decided to better his craft by writing his own how-to. The result is this succinct but insightful manual. In Part 1, Spencer lays out the "rules" of playwriting with the caveat that they are not written in stone but still need to be studied and understood, especially by new writers. Part 2 covers the creative process, describing how to define an idea and use gut instincts to write what you need to say. Part 3 deals with problems and tips on how and when to rewrite (e.g., how to create "cut lines" files). Finally, Part 4 is loaded with advice on what to read and how to write cover letters and contact literary agents. Well structured and easy to read and use, this book will be helpful to aspiring playwrights. Public and academic libraries should consider adding it to their collections. Lisa J. Cihlar, Monroe P.L., WI
Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. Stuart Spencer's meticulous handbook does something I had thought was almost impossible: it describes, clarifies and analyzes the mysterious process of building a play. And moreover, he does so with the grace and respect of a first-rate teacher for the intelligence and potential of his students. There is no ideology, no formula for instant success here. Just the distilled experience of a real practitioner generous enough to share, and reliable enough to be trusted. Jon Robin Baitz, author of *Ten Unknowns* and *Substance of Fire*
Stuart Spencer's *The Playwright's Guidebook* is indispensable. Clearly and thoroughly, Mr. Spencer--a playwright himself--leads all playwrights (not only the beginner) through the travails of creation and the jungle of production. He is to be congratulated. Edward Albee
Eureka! A clearly written, well-structured, intelligent how-to book about playwriting. Like the good teacher and good writer that he is, Stuart Spencer guides rather than browbeats. Should be next to the laptop of any aspiring, or working, playwright. Warren Leight, author of *Side Man*
If you want to be a playwright, here's your bible. David Lindsay-Abaire, author of *Fuddy Meers* and *Wonder of the World*
At last! A straight-from-the-shoulder approach to playwriting that finally blows the dust off much of the mystique surrounding this craft. Stuart Spencer writes with wit, insight, clarity, brilliant first-hand knowledge, and yes, finally, offers genuine help! Refreshing and beautifully organized, this book is long overdue. Jack O'Brien, Artistic Director, The Globe Theatres, San Diego
A sensible, lucid, thorough and tremendously helpful journey into the always mysterious realities of playwriting. Romulus Linney, author of *The Sorrows of Frederick*, *Holy Ghosts*, and *Tennessee*
Mr. Spencer's guidebook is full of solid, straightforward advice in a conversational voice that takes the mystery out of how plays are wrought, not written. Michael Weller, author of *Moon Children* and *Loose Ends*