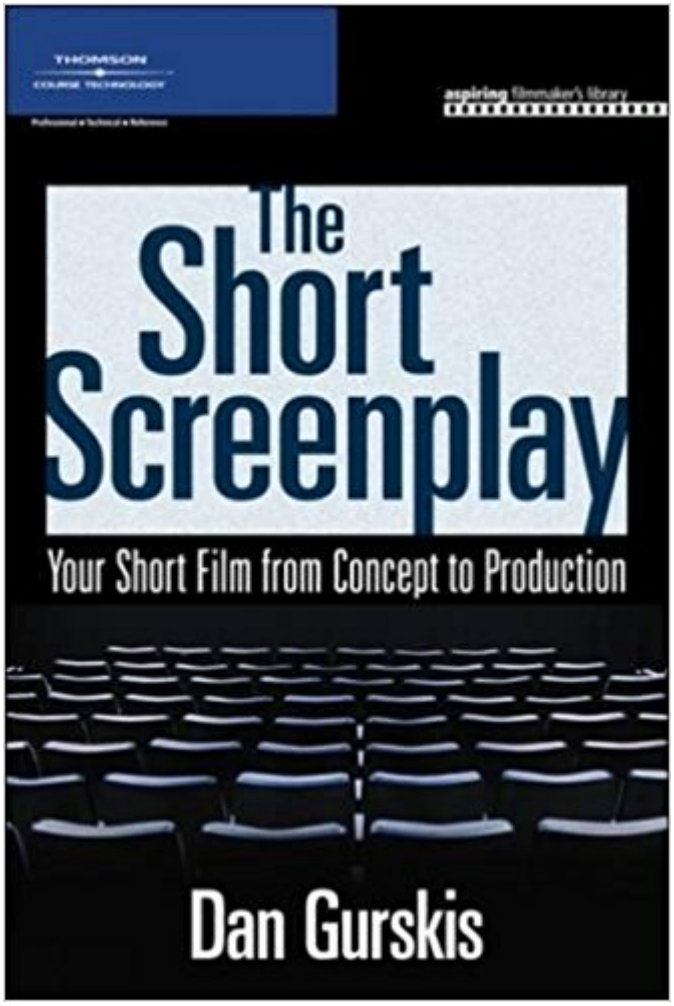
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The Short Screenplay: Your Short Film From Concept To Production (Aspiring Filmmaker's Library)



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Synopsis

With the growth of film festivals, cable networks, specialty home video, and the Internet, there are more outlets and opportunities for screening short films now than at any time in the last 100 years. But before you can screen your short film, you need to shoot it. And before you can shoot it, you need to write it. The Short Screenplay provides both beginning and experienced screenwriters with all the guidance they need to write compelling, filmable short screenplays. Explore how to develop characters that an audience can identify with. How to create a narrative structure that fits a short time frame but still engages the audience. How to write dialogue that’s concise and memorable. How to develop story ideas from concept through final draft. All this and much more is covered in a unique conversational style that reads more like a novel than a "how-to" book. The book wraps up with a discussion of the role of the screenplay in the production process and with some helpful (and entertaining) sample scripts. This is the only guide you’ll ever need to make your short film a reality!

Book Information

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I. INTRODUCTION What is a screenplay? What is important in a screenplay? The screenwriter’s skill set II. SHORTS The fundamentals of the short film The four categories of short films: short-shorts, conventional shorts, medium shorts, long shorts Film vs. theater Film vs. television III. CHARACTER Character and characterization Putting your characters in charge of the action What a character wants, what a character needs Adding depth to your characters Types of characters and

their function Secondary characters IV. NARRATIVE The five forms of conflict The three-part nature of screenplay structure: setup, rising action, resolution The importance of cause and effect The elements of a scene Scene structure Writing the scene V. DIALOGUE The goals of film dialogue The characteristics of film dialogue Writing effective dialogue Structuring sentences and speeches Dialect, slang, and insider speech VI. DEVELOPMENT Generating ideas for a short screenplay The development process Creating a concept Creating a synopsis Creating a step outline The first draft Revising Writing screenplays for non-theatrical films (podcasts, Internet only, mobile phone) VII. PRODUCTION Production considerations for a short screenplay Working with a director Working with a producer When the director or the producer is you Conforming the screenplay to existing locations and budget limitations "There's no such thing as a free lunch" Permissions and legal considerations Writing the shooting script VIII. FORMAT The standard industry format: the way a screenplay looks on a paper Screenplay form: using language to suggest film images What to avoid: directing on paper and acting on paper Film grammar vs. English grammar IX. GLOSSARY X. APPENDIX IX. INDEX

Dan Gurskis has more than twenty years of writing and producing experience in film and television. He has worked on projects Columbia, Paramount, RKO, HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, Comedy Central, and the USA Network with collaborators as varied as the director Nicolas Roeg and Monty PythonÃ Â¿s Graham Chapman. In all, he has written more than thirty screenplays. Gurskis has won an Emmy Award and has been a Cable Ace Nominee, a Shubert Fellow, and a MacDowell Colony Fellow. He currently chairs the Department of Film at Brooklyn College, City University of New York.

This is an excellent "how-to-do-it" book. Writing a short screenplay is especially challenging because there is so little screen time to develop a good plot and tell an interesting story without excessive dialog. The screenplay must evoke a visual experience that guides the director and entertains the audience. The author presents a series of "rules" that can help to achieve good results, but he leaves the subject matter up to the screenwriter. This is as it should be, leaving plenty of room for creative expression. M.H.

Great book! I needed this book for my screenplay class and it really pulled through. It breaks down all the terms and necessities of what is required in a screenplay. If you want to learn how to write one and learn the format for it, I highly recommend this book.

Needed this for a film class, so I had to buy it but glad I did! Was a good read!

Writing for a short can be very challenging to since most of us are used to watching features. This book is very informative and got me off to a good start in making short films. It's geared toward directors rather than writers. I keep this book around for quick reference when I need it.

Great!

Very insightful and helpful for beginning writer or someone like me who has a couple scripts already under my belt.

Great text book! Very informative for those that are new to screenplays. It is helping me progress very well with all the terminology within the business.

Really great read. Gives great examples and advise to writing a good screenplay.

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Outline Your Screenplay or Novel, Always Know Ã¢â ¬Å“What Happens Next,Ã¢â ¬Â• and Finish Your Rough Draft Without Freaking Out (Iterative Outlining Book 1) My Story Can Beat Up Your Story: Ten Ways to Toughen Up Your Screenplay from Opening Hook to Knockout Punch 200 Projects to Strengthen Your Art Skills: For Aspiring Art Students (Aspire) Television Production Handbook (Wadsworth Series in Broadcast and Production)

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