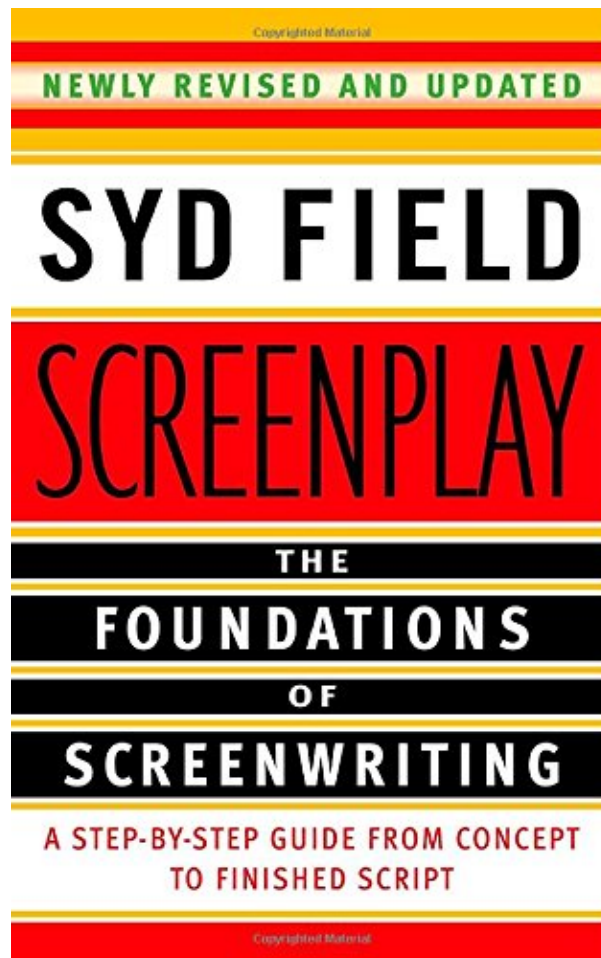


# SCREENPLAY: THE FOUNDATIONS OF SCREENWRITING BY SYD FIELD



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**A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FROM CONCEPT  
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## Review

“Screenplay is one of the bibles of the film trade and has launched many a would-be screenwriter on the road to Hollywood.” —Library Journal

“Syd Field is the preeminent analyzer in the study of American screenplays.” —James L. Brooks, AcademyAward-winning writer, director, producer

## From the Inside Flap

From concept to character, from opening scene to finished script..

Here are easily understood guidelines to make film-writing accessible to novices and to help practiced writers improve their scripts. Syd Field pinpoints the structural and stylistic elements essential to every good screenplay. He presents a step-by-step, comprehensive technique for writing the script that will succeed.

- Why are the first ten pages of your script crucially important?
- How do you collaborate successfully with someone else?
- How do you adapt a novel, a play, or an article into a screenplay?
- How do you market your script?

## About the Author

Syd Field is a screenwriter, producer, teacher, international lecturer, and author of the bestselling books *Screenplay*, *The Screenwriter's Workbook*, *Selling a Screenplay*, and *Four Screenplays*. Published in 1982, *Screenplay* has been translated into sixteen languages, and is used in more than 250 colleges and universities across the country. At present he is creative consultant to the governments of Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Austria, and South Africa, and has been a script consultant for Roland Jaffe's film production company, for Alfonso Arau and Laura Esquivel on *Like Water for Chocolate*, and for Tri-Star Pictures. He lives in Beverly Hills, California.

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A generation of screenwriters has used Syd Field's bestselling books to ignite successful careers in film. Now the celebrated producer, lecturer, teacher, and bestselling author has updated his classic guide for a new generation of filmmakers, offering a fresh insider's perspective on the film industry today. From concept to character, from opening scene to finished script, here are easily understood guidelines to help aspiring screenwriters—from novices to practiced writers—hone their craft. Filled with updated material—including all-new personal anecdotes and insights, guidelines on marketing and collaboration, plus analyses of recent films, from *American Beauty* to *Lord of the Rings*—Screenplay presents a step-by-step, comprehensive technique for writing the screenplay that will succeed in Hollywood. Discover:

- Why the first ten pages of your script are crucially important
- How to visually “grab” the reader from page one, word one
- Why structure and character are the essential foundation of your screenplay
- How to adapt a novel, a play, or an article into a screenplay
- Tips on protecting your work—three legal ways to claim ownership of your screenplay
- The essentials of writing great dialogue, creating character, building a story line, overcoming writer's block, getting an agent, and much more.

With this newly updated edition of his bestselling classic, Syd Field proves yet again why he is revered as the master of the screenplay—and why his celebrated guide has become the industry's gold standard for successful screenwriting.

- Sales Rank: #6144 in Books
- Brand: Field, Syd
- Published on: 2005-11-29
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- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .68" w x 5.13" l,
- Binding: Paperback
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It's good, but..

By Amazon Customer

The material is good, but I don't really get how he said it. It's now his language's too hard to understand, it's English, everyone can understand it. But, he explained everything in a complex way, a bit hard to understand. Also, you have to watch some American classic films before reading this, films like *Chinatown* (1974), *Cold Mountain*, *Rushmore*, *Thelma & Louis*, and much more, to understand what he's saying.

For a guy who wanted to jump on a film making world, this book is a good read, you could understand a lot more of writing script for film or screenplay. So I give 4/5.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent Book for a Novice Especially

By Roy F. Johnson

An excellent guide including the advice on legal and financial aspects. I liked the repetition for emphasis; it was good for a novice such as me. The writing style is easy and quite readable.

The only place I had trouble was in following his screenplay examples since I hadn't seen most of the films. But, if I took it upon myself to see them, I'm sure Field's remarks would make a lot of sense.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Want to write the next 'Rocky'? Get this book

By Scott FS

One of the classic books on screenwriting, and deservedly so. It's well worth picking up and reading. As one instructor told me, if you can pick up even one useful bit of advice from a book or class, then it is worth it. This book has many. Get it!

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