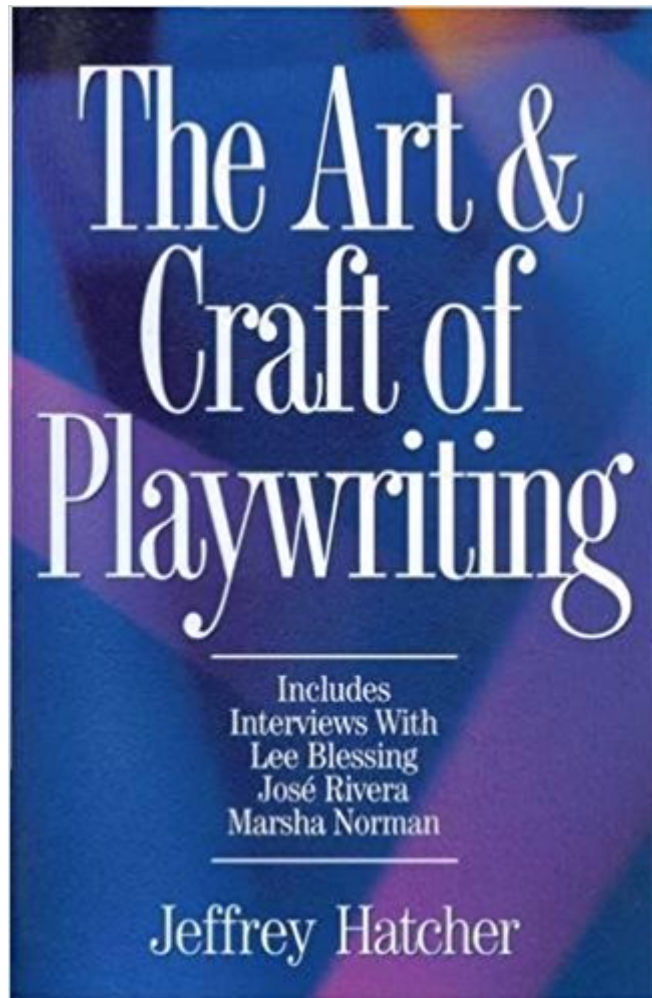




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The Art And Craft Of Playwriting



Synopsis

Jeffrey Hatcher knows the nuts and bolts of writing for the theater. Here, he shares his views on it all--from building tension and plotting a scene, right down to moving a character from one side of the stage to the other. From crafting an intriguing beginning to delivering a satisfying ending. In Hatcher's one-on-one discussions with acclaimed American playwrights Lee Blessing, Marsha Norman and Jose Rivera, you'll find a wealth of practical advice, tricks of the trade and insight that will help you in your own creative efforts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Still in this book as assigned for a Playwriting and Performance class. I've been to a half-dozen stage performances in my life which is not a lot, but enough to know that I know virtually nothing about playwriting. Hatcher writes with clarity and humor and his patience with neophytes is clear on every page. As an emerging writer and literature student, I'm familiar with the works he uses as examples, but not familiar enough from a playwriting perspective not to need to collect them and read them again, but most of the authors are familiar. As a playwriting primer, it's incredible. How it compares to other works in its genre, I have no idea. But I'm liking this one enough that I'll keep it and use it again.

Like most craft books, this lays out a set of rules that you must follow to write a good play. The rules, as with most craft books, tend to be somewhat different than the rules in other craft books.

Overall there are some good ideas here, but you have to take what works and leave the rest, because all of this is essentially the author's experience of what works, and what has worked for him might not work for someone else. Better yet, drop the craft books and just write the plays. When playwrights actually pay attention to these craft books, the quality of the work tends to suffer, in my experience.

This is just exactly what I needed. It is so well presented that once I got into the first chapter I was ready to start seriously thinking about what character I would create. I am a retired teacher of writing--not five-paragraph essay nonsense but authentic writing--who has a long love affair with Tennessee Williams' plays. And now that I am retired, I wanted something that would really motivate me and also guide me. And this is the book. I really like how he cites specific plays with specifics from them. This is a big, big must to anyone who wants to write drama.

I really enjoyed this book. It had quite a bit of advice with which I was already familiar, but it also had some good advice on crafting the play that I was able to use. Would highly recommend.

I saw a few of Jeffrey Hatcher's stage adaptations and wanted to see what he would teach me about theater. I learned a lot from his book and recommend it to anyone writing a play.

The structure used was very clear and precise taking the reader through step by step with little tests at the end of each chapter. At the same time the difficulties in writing plays was not overlooked. Indeed the reader would have a very clear idea as to the difficulties and time commitment involved. If one had a haphazard ideal of what playwriting was all about. Clearly playwriting is not simple but after carefully reading this book the reader will be equipped to write a play - after that who knows ?

Even as a person who has experience with playwriting, I found the book useful, especially during the revision process. The author is clear, and the book is well organized, so that if you don't need the introductory chapter, you can go immediately to what you need.

Excellent book for the playwright, old or new. He brings a real sense of himself and what worked for him (The Author.) But leaves you room to do it your way. I have bought over ten books lately on playwriting this is by far the best.

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