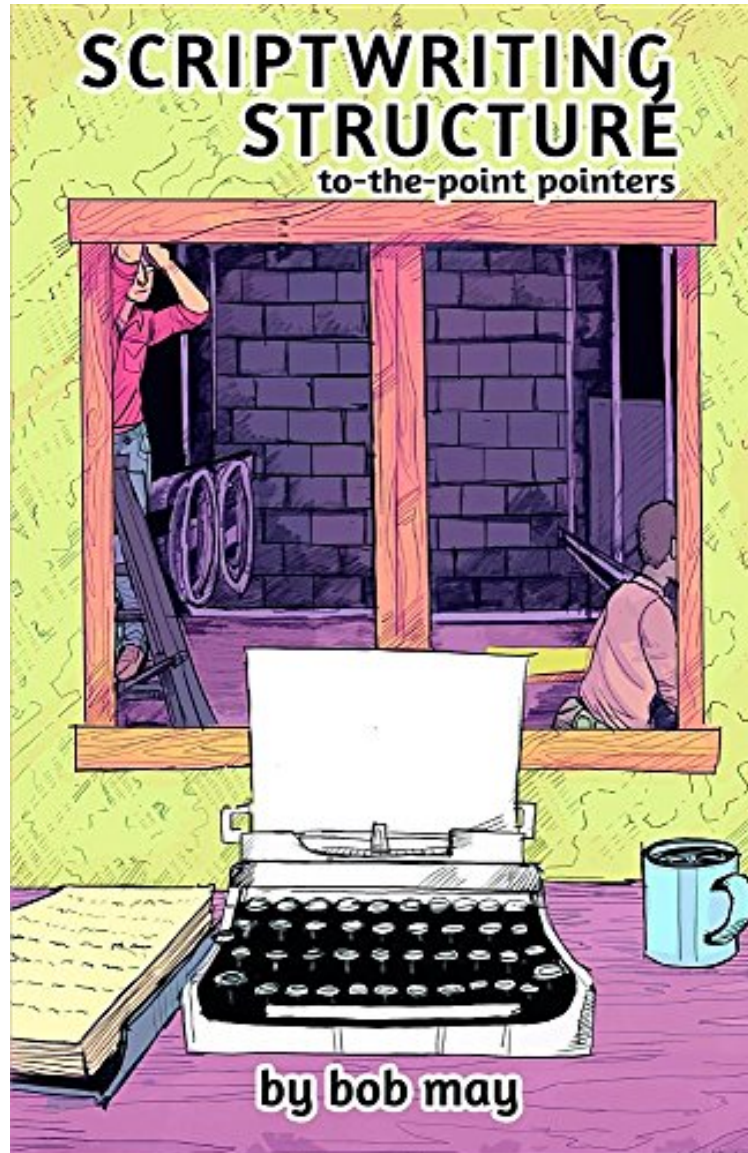


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## Scriptwriting Structure: To-the-Point Pointers

Bob May

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**Bob May : Scriptwriting Structure: To-the-Point Pointers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scriptwriting Structure: To-the-Point Pointers:

Are you a beginning playwright? A new screenwriter? Are you a seasoned professional seeking proven practices in scriptwriting? Solid structure is the key, and in Scriptwriting Structure: To-the-Point Pointers, Bob May has spun

Aristotle's theories and modern practices together to form his own structural techniques that have led to twenty-five of his scripts being published and hundreds of productions around the world. The right-to-the-point nature of the storytelling will make you feel as though Mr. May is talking directly to you, teaching his valuable lessons on: - illustrating what dramatic action is - understanding the importance of character objectives in scripts - using proper formatting in plays or screenplays - understanding and using a script structural technique known as PASTO - applying Aristotle's Six Key Elements in the writing of scripts - how to be a better playwright or screenwriter. Writing scripts that work can be a solitary business. But with this book, you have a friend by your side.

"I've spent a large portion of my life directing new plays for professional theatre and many years as well as a drama and film critic for Post-Newsweek Television. Within my experience, Bob May is about the best writer-director-teacher I know." - Davey Marlin-Jones "Bob has become a highly skillful writer - his plays are adroitly plotted and very actable. He uses humor and imagination as special tools." Jerry L. Crawford, PhD

I have spent over fifty years in the theatre, starting out as an actor, graduating to a director with over four hundred and fifty productions under my belt, and finally finding a comfortable home as a playwright. I received an M.F.A. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Playwriting Program. Fifty of my plays have been produced; twenty-one of them published with hundreds of productions in the U.S. and around the world. Of all the plays I've directed, thirty-seven of them have been originals. I've been writing plays for over forty years and teaching playwriting for half those years. I currently teach playwriting and screenwriting in the B.A. and M.F.A. Creative Writing program at the University of Central Arkansas. When thinking about writing this book, I wasn't sure if I would write it on playwriting or screenwriting. Or maybe television writing. I decided to write it as a scriptwriting book. While the writing principles for each of the mediums are similar; the formatting is different for each one to illustrate each medium's strengths. Scriptwriting formulas tell us plays are comprised of 75% dialogue and 25% action. Films, by contrast, are 75% action and 25% dialogue. Television is 50/50. The strength of each of the mediums is exemplified by the percentages and reflected in each one's formatting. More on formatting in Pointers Seven and Eight. Before I begin, let me use playwriting to illustrate an important point. Plays are manmade. They are not real life. Real life doesn't happen or unfold as neatly structured as a play. Just look at the spelling of the word playwright. It's wright, not write. That's right, it is wright, not write. And why is that? Because all plays are crafted. Just as a shipwright makes a ship or a wheelwright makes a wheel, a playwright makes a play. There are rules to follow if the playwright is going to have a structurally sound play. As a writer of scripts, you must first understand these rules so you can dissect any script. The Pointers included throughout the book give you the tools to understand what makes a script tick. I cover many things related to scriptwriting and will discuss each one of them individually. But they don't stand-alone. Many of them work with and off of each other, and in the end, they all fit together to make the whole.

About the Author Bob May has been active in theatre for fifty years. He began as an actor, moved on to directing after earning a BA in theatre from St. Cloud State University (MN), and then directing took a backseat to writing after he graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, with an MFA in playwriting. As a director he has directed over 450 productions across the country (most of them being musicals), and as a playwright twenty-two of his plays have been published. He currently teaches playwriting and screenwriting at the University of Central Arkansas. His book, *Postcard Pointers to the Performer* is published by Dominion Publications. Skye Bridge Publishing publishes his books *The Process of Play Directing: From Concept to Curtain* and *Scriptwriting Structure: To the Point Pointers*. Mr. May is a member of the Dramatists Guild.