



Introduction to Screenwriting

This guide is designed to assist our patrons new to screenwriting for film and television; by providing key resources to use as a starting point in their research. Use this information to refine your search, and contact library staff with any follow-up questions or for further research assistance.

Subject Headings

A subject heading can help you refine your search, making it easier to find exactly what you are looking for.

To find books on screenwriting that are available in the Film Reference Library, use the following subject headings:

Subject

MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - COMPUTER NETWORK RESOURCES
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - FRANCE - HISTORY
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - MARKETING
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - PERIODICALS
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - STUDY AND TEACHING
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - UNITED STATES
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - UNITED STATES - HISTORY
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - UNITED STATES - MARKETING - DIRECTORIES
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - UNITED STATES - VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE
MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP - VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE - JUVENILE LITERATURE
MOTION PICTURE CAMERAS
MOTION PICTURE CAMERAS - DICTIONARIES
MOTION PICTURE EDITORS
MOTION PICTURE EDITORS - BIOGRAPHY
MOTION PICTURE EDITORS - CANADA - BIOGRAPHY
MOTION PICTURE EDITORS - CANADA - DIRECTORIES

Examples of subject headings related to screenwriting:

- [FICTION - TECHNIQUE](#)
- [MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP](#)
- [MOTION PICTURE AUTHORSHIP – HANDBOOKS, MANUALS, ETC.](#)
- [PLAYWRITING](#)
- [SCRIPTWRITING](#)
- [TELEVISION AUTHORSHIP](#)

Recommended Books

Books provide a comprehensive overview of a larger topic, making them an excellent resource to start your research with.

[*Making a good script great : a creativity workbook for screenwriters*](#) by Mead Dodd and Linda Seger
Publisher: Silman-James, 1987

[*Save the cat! : Save the cat! goes to the movies : the screenwriter's guide to every story ever told*](#)
by Blake Snyder
Publisher: Michael Wiese Productions, 2007

[*Creative filmmaking from the inside out : five keys to the art of making inspired movies and television*](#)
by Jed Dannenbaum, Caroll Hodge and Doe Mayer
Publisher: Simon & Schuster, 2003

[*Story : substance, structure, style, and the principles of screenwriting*](#) by Robert McKee.
Publisher: Regan Books, 1997

[*Screenplay : the foundations of screenwriting*](#) by Syd Field.
Publisher: Bantam, 2005

[*Making movies*](#) by Sidney Lumet
Publisher: Knopf, 1995

[*Writing short films : structure and content for screenwriters*](#) by Linda J. Cowgill.
Publisher: Lone Eagle, 2005

[*45 master characters : mythic models for creating original characters*](#) by Victoria Schmidt.
Publisher: Writer's Digest, 2001

[*Screenwriting*](#) by Andrew Horton & Julian Hoxter.
Publisher: Rutgers University, 2014

[*Riding the alligator : strategies for a career in screenplay writing-- and not getting eaten*](#)
by Pen Densham.
Publisher: W

Periodicals

Trade Journals and Magazines are a great way for screenwriters to keep up to date to industry trends and learn from fellow filmmakers.

Note: Titles listed can be found from the Film Reference Library's print and/or electronic periodical collection. You can access these articles by visiting the Library in person.

- [Canadian Screenwriter](#). Toronto: Writers Guild of Canada.
- [Screenwriter](#). The Writer's Guild of Great Britain
- [Script](#). USA: Final Draft Inc.
- [Scenario : the magazine of screenwriting art](#). New York: Scenario.
- [Filmmaker](#). USA: Independent Feature Project.

Films

A collection of films included in the Writers Guild of America's list of 101 Greatest Screenplays and recipients of the Canadian Screen Award for Best Screenplay



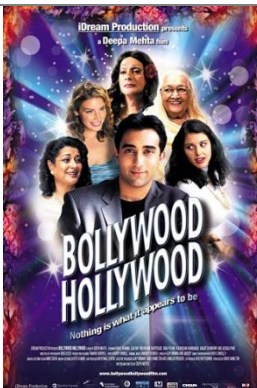
Citizen Kane (1941),
dir. Orson Welles
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Script\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



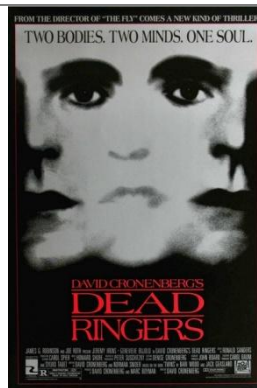
Lawrence of Arabia (1962),
dir. David Lean
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Script\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



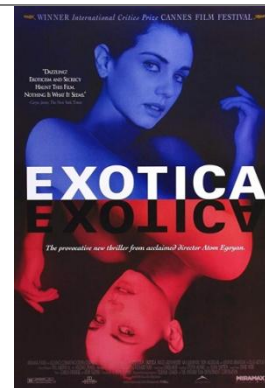
*Eternal Sunshine of a the
Spotless Mind* (2004),
dir. Michel Gondry
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Script\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)





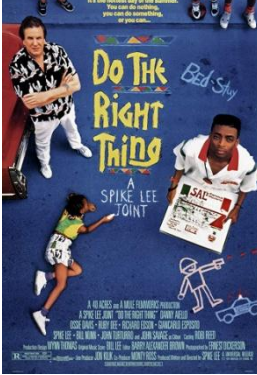
Bollywood / Hollywood (2002),
dir. Deepa Mehta
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Script\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Dead Ringers (1988),
dir. David Cronenberg
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Script\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



Exotica (1994),
dir. Atom Egoyan
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Script\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)

 <p><i>When Harry Met Sally</i> (1989), dir. Rob Reiner [AV] [Script] [Film File]</p>	 <p><i>Away from Her</i> (2006), dir. Sarah Polley [AV] [Script] [Film File]</p>	 <p><i>Do the Right Thing</i> (1989), dir. Spike Lee [AV] [Script] [Film File]</p>
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External Sources

Links to resources and institutions that have more information and resources regarding screenwriting and the industry

- [TIFF Industry Talent Development](#)
- [Canadian Film Centre Writers' Lab](#)
- [The Writers Guild of Canada](#)
- [Toronto Screenwriting Conference](#)
- [ScreenCraft](#)
- [Script Reader Pro](#)
- [No Film School](#)