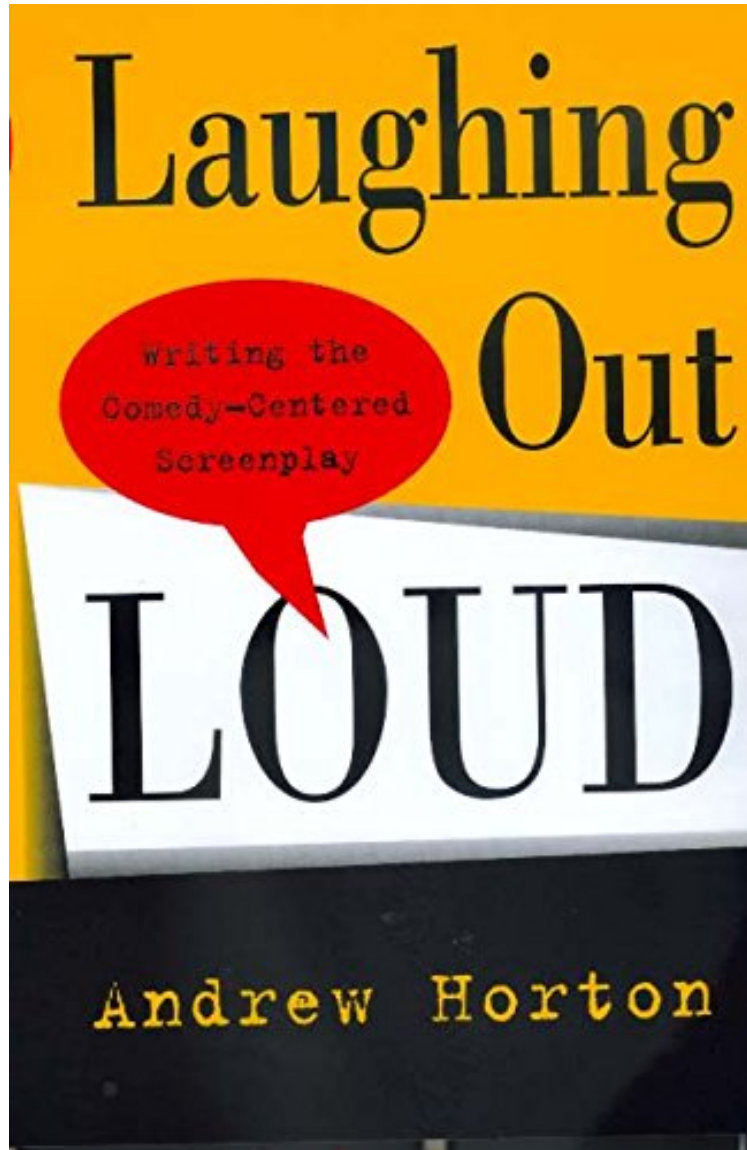


(Mobile library) Laughing Out Loud: Writing the Comedy-Centered Screenplay

Laughing Out Loud: Writing the Comedy-Centered Screenplay

Andrew Horton

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Andrew Horton : Laughing Out Loud: Writing the Comedy-Centered Screenplay before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Laughing Out Loud: Writing the Comedy-Centered Screenplay:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. On the right track but too much compromiseBy KsuzyThis book provides some marvelous exercises for learning to think comically, which Horton claims is essential to writing good comedy. He also provides a rich history of comic traditions in many genres, which adds to the book's usefulness. He

does, however, manage to skim both subjects too lightly in his attempt to put both in the same book. Thus, those who are looking for a how-to book will be dissatisfied, and those who are looking for an academic book will be dissatisfied. His treatment of comedy as a genre is too light to be considered anything other than watered down for screenwriters who are supposed to care. Did *I* enjoy the book? In most instances, yes. However, I found it too selective of what Horton considered good examples of comedy. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Self indulgence published. By Caspar I was attracted to this book because I work as a writer and actor mostly with comedy. What a horrible book. Why don't I write down all my favorite movie moments (not just comedy), throw in a few populist tips and bind them together with a whole load of other peoples ideas and....voil!! I have a book published! That, in my opinion, is what Andrew Horton has done. Terribly self-indulgent and doesn't set up any coherent criteria. Anyone who has done McKees course, read his book or stuff by Sid Field, Christopher Vogler, etc. will not be missing anything by not buying this book. He may offer some useful insights but they are lost in a chaos of useless references. The writer comes across as well meaning and passionate but I found his book frustrating and disappointing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best book on comedic writing I've ever read. By Janie T I've purchased many books on comedic writing, but this is the only one I've actually read. I may never write a comedic screenplay or television script, but if I ever do, I'll reread this book first. It covers everything from brainstorming ideas to actual scriptwriting, networking, marketing and making your own film. Appendix 1 (a recommended viewing list of feature comedies), alone, was worth the price of the book to me.

Whoever wrote "Make 'em laugh!" knew that it's easier said than done. But people love to laugh, and good comedy will always sell. With the help of this complete and entertaining guide, writers and would-be writers for film and television can look forward to writing comedy that goes far beyond stereotypic jokes and characters. In *Laughing Out Loud*, award-winning screenwriter and author Andrew Horton blends history, theory, and analysis of comedy with invaluable advice. Using examples from Chaplin to *Seinfeld*, Aristophanes to Woody Allen, Horton describes comedy as a perspective rather than merely as a genre and then goes on to identify the essential elements of comedy. His lively overview of comedy's history traces its two main branches anarchistic comedy and romantic comedy from ancient Greece through contemporary Hollywood, by way of commedia dell'arte, vaudeville, and silent movies. Television and international cinema are included in Horton's analysis, which leads into an up-close review of the comedy chemistry in a number of specific films and television shows. The rest of the book is a practical guide to writing feature comedy and episodic TV comedy, complete with schedules and exercises designed to unblock any writer's comic potential. The appendices offer tips on networking, marketing, and even producing comedies, and are followed by a list of recommended comedies and a bibliography.

From the *Inside Flap* "Andy Horton's latest book is not only refreshing, insightful, and effortlessly scholarly; it's also imbued with that rare quality so lacking in its field a shameless sense of fun." Herschel Weingrod, screenwriter (*Trading Places*, *Twins*, *Space Jam*, *Kindergarten Cop*) "Andy Horton does a masterful job of explaining the inexplicable the elusive principles of comedy. The book is a celebration of those who have mined for humor in the most barren landscapes and struck gold. Horton emphasizes the importance of laughing in the face of adversity. These are more than good rules for writing. These are good rules for living." Barbara Hall, screenwriter (*Northern Exposure*, *I'll Fly Away*, *Chicago Hope*)