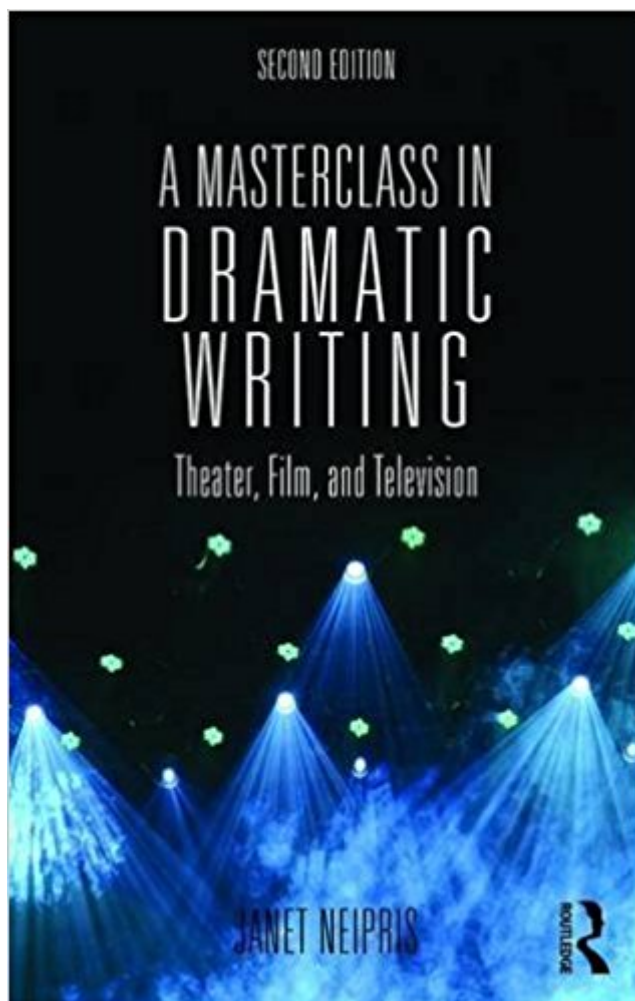


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# A Masterclass In Dramatic Writing: Theater, Film, And Television



## Synopsis

A Masterclass in Dramatic Writing<sup>Â</sup> is an essential tool for professional teachers in academic programs training successful Playwrights, Screenwriters, and TV writers, as well as anyone who wants to write a completed dramatic script. You can become a successful dramatic writer within a group or by yourself. This focused and engaging book is organized as a one-semester course. The chapters guide the writer week-by-week and step-by-step resulting in the completion of a first draft and a rewrite of an original script. The fourteen chapters are each accompanied by Weekly Exercises and progressive Assignments. In this expanded and updated edition, Neipris integrates her widely used To Be A Playwright, into a master class for playwrights, screenwriters and TV writers. New Chapters include: THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WRITER ONE WRITER<sup>Â</sup> <sup>TM</sup>S LIFE BEGINNINGS- WHERE IDEAS ORIGINATE COMEDY CHECKPOINTS ADAPTATION <sup>Â</sup> "FILM, THEATER, AND TELEVISION PUTTING IT TOGETHER -- CONSTRUCTING A FULL LENGTH SCRIPT LESSONS FROM MASTER TEACHERS AND STUDENTS Janet<sup>Â</sup> <sup>TM</sup>s legacy as an educator, mentor, and artists is legendary. This book is a gift to the profession and the art. Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a wonderfully comprehensive book that gives practical exercises that help writers to attain the skills they need to move forward on either new or ongoing drama projects. I completed the work on my own, however I could also see this working very well for writers groups or classes working

together.

Part memoir, part teaching aid....practical and inspirational....fueled by the author's vast experience as playwright, professor, humanist, internationalist, celebrant of the passions that define us all, and of our differences...

I have read books about playwrighting and screenwriting, but never one that brings together both (along with writing for television) in such an inspirational way. I liked this book from the preface, which talks about the moral responsibility we have as writers. The author stresses the uniqueness of each writer's journey while sharing with us the arduous journey behind much of her work. While it delves into the depth of our responsibility as a writer - exploring the human condition and how to do that - this book is also very practical. I learned a lot from a chapter called "60 questions to ask when writing a dramatic piece" that covers theatre, film and tv. Each chapter ends with an assignment that leads you to a finished work after 14 weeks. Some of the assignments are surprising, such as starting a scene from a poem, or writing every single word you have in a day. The author covers everything from drama to comedy to adapting novels to the screen or stage. She gives great advice on rewriting (what I've always found to be the hardest part!) I loved the chapter on Comedy in which she quotes many successful playwrights and screenwriters on "what they've learned" through their experience and "what they teach". The author quotes a New York playwright who says, "Playwrighting is an exercise in stamina, blind faith, and insanity." Somehow, she makes us want to go on that crazy journey.

The name says it all. A Master Class in Dramatic Writing it is. Janet Neipris has gifted us with 150 odd pages of what should be considered one of the most useful, informative and motivational tomes on the art that is writing. Janet immediately pulled me in with her conversational and funny tone. It was as if I could hear her speaking directly to me. More accurately, her writing style made me feel as if the two of us were chatting about the craft - two friends, one with many questions, the other, many answers. Janet is a writer at heart. Her love for the craft, for words, for the ebb and flow of communication is tangible and contagious. She makes clear the importance of building each writing challenge on a foundation of love. Love of our characters, of creating moments and love for the genuine excitement of storytelling. Writing is work, after all. Hard work. And ultimately it's all in the doing. After reading this book I'm now ready to challenge myself to be held accountable to my personal writing goals. This definitive blueprint to honing the written word

can only have one result for me and anyone else ready to take action. Creating passionate and skilled writers word by word, page by page.

This is an insightful and comprehensive book that offers a variety of ideas and exercises that can be used throughout the writing process: generating ideas, developing characters, crafting dialogue, escalating conflicts, pulling everything together and polishing your work through rewrites. The author sprinkles anecdotes and examples throughout to help provide new perspectives and approaches to the art and craft of writing while touching on the approaches and challenges to writing for different mediums.

As in a good play, in this book, we feel the author's presence guiding us on this journey using her own experiences as a writer and teacher of writing, as well as the experiences of her colleagues and students to illuminate, sometimes humorously, sometimes poignantly, her ideas about the strangely simple and maddeningly complex process of writing a successful play or screenplay. I found it inspiring. PS don't skip the introduction. Neipris's own story tells you -- it's never too late to start writing and to see great success in your writing.

Here's a chance to experience what wise playwrights crave: an opportunity to sit around legendary Professor Janet Neipris's seminar table. Indeed, not playwrights alone, but creators of dramatic narratives writing in any format can profit from the advice provided here in language that is clear, purposeful, accessible, human, and humane.

While reading the book, I felt as if I were sitting in on the author's class and it was marvelous. Her speeches that she includes are helpful and inspirational as well. The format of a semester long class with weekly topics and homework was well written with clear instruction. It was a joy to read and I most loved that she wrote about identifying oneself as a writer and an artist and how to navigate that world with certain habits and mindsets as well.

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