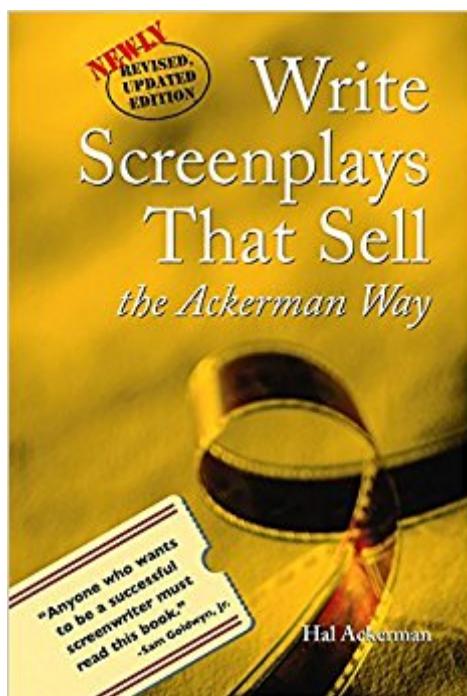


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# Write Screenplays That Sell: The Ackerman Way: Newly Revised And Updated!



## Synopsis

You don't have to attend film school to take a screenwriting course with the master teacher in the field — it's all in his book! Meet Hal Ackerman, up close and personal, just as hundreds of his students have known him through the years. Hal Ackerman offers a treasure trove of information on the writing of quality, saleable screenplays by teaching the art of story structure, substance and style. Over the last quarter century, dozens of screenplays written in his classes have been sold and several have become films, including ones starring Tom Hanks (directed by Steven Spielberg), Gwyneth Paltrow, Christian Bale, Hilary Swank and Diane Lane. They have won accolades in many prestigious contests and have been the gateway scripts to writing jobs in feature films and TV including HBO, Showtime, TNT, OWN, ABC, NBC, CBS, Disney, and more. With this book every professional writer gets a lifetime collaborator and every aspiring writer has a teacher in residence on his or her shelf.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A must-read for screenwriters at all stages of professional development." -- Creative Screenwriting "Exceptional. Excellent." -- Script "...one of the more popular screenwriting bibles out there." -- Screentalk

Hal Ackerman is emeritus Co-Area Head of the UCLA Screenwriting program. His book has guided the careers of scores of successful writers. He has sold original material to all the major studio and networks. He has had numerous short stories published in literary journals. "Belle &

Melinda Å“ was selected by Robert Olen Butler as the World Å“s Best Short Short story for Southeast Review. TESTOSTERONE: How Prostate Cancer Made A Man of Me won the William Saroyan Centennial Prize for drama. Under its new title, PRICK, it won BEST SCRIPT at the 2011 United Solo Festival.

I've had the pleasure of taking a screenwriting course with Professor Ackerman at UCLA, and his book, like Ackerman himself, is full of insight, humor and encouragement. If you're looking for a guidepost to help you get started with your own screenwriting, I can't recommend Ackerman's book enough. Indeed, I'd also recommend Richard Walter's book on screenwriting (I've also had class with Professor Walter and recommend him and his book highly as well). Each offers a different perspective, and combined will give you a good picture of where and how to start in the craft. For me, some of the highlights are in the lessons on word economy, trying to say as much as possible with as few words as possible, and on being courageous in your writing. "Take Vienna!" Professor Ackerman says, quoting Napoleon Bonaparte, and he's right: you're telling a story, don't be afraid to tell it, even if that means offending some people. Let the story be what it needs to be, and therein find truth. With all this said, don't limit yourself to just one or two peoples' books on screenwriting and/or storytelling. You should also spend some time with Aristotle's Poetics (or just as well, "Aristotle's Poetics for Screenwriters" by Michael Tierno) and Joseph Campbell's Hero With a Thousand Faces. You may not follow their forms precisely, but knowing those classic forms will help you even if your intent is to deviate from them.

UCLA attracts teaching talent, and Ackerman is one of the best. Most screenwriting books cover similar topics, but Ackerman adds his own insight to the basics. His credits include a long list of successful students. I especially enjoyed his approach to scene writing. His insights into genre and plot points offer unique perspective. By the end of this book I was dancing the Wadoogee. You want to buy this one. It's a lot cheaper than going to UCLA!

Good

This is one of the very best books I have ever read about screenwriting. It is perfect for a beginner and a professional alike. The material is so rich and insightful it takes more than one reading to grasp it in just part. I use it as my bible before, during and after creating a screenplay -- And as all great books are, it is a truly easy read. Give it a shot -- It just might launch your career or change

your career - whichever path you are currently. Thank you Mr Ackerman for sharing your brilliant insights!

This book is entertaining and instructive at the same time. It asks you some very serious questions about your dedication to writing and it's basic line is "I can help you if you try to help yourself to become a good writer". This is in my eyes much better than the message of many other books on scriptwriting where the pitch is more like: "Use the strategy contained in this book and you'll write great screenplays."

This is the best screenwriting book ! It reads like a graduate level UCLA course. Duh, Hal Ackerman is the Head of the UCLA Screenwriting Department. I worked through his book, did every homework assignment, and wrote my first feature movie by the time I finished reading it. Absolutely inspirational. Highly recommend. I would also recommend: Movie Outline, Contour, Final Draft 8, the Screenwriter's Bible by Trottier to complete your toolbox. I am an award-winning independent filmmaker, always willing to assist others. gary at dreamcraftpictures dot com

Excellent book for novelists as well as aspiring screenwriters, as it gets to the heart of what all of this is about: Storytelling.

Excellent. Beyond words. It's a personal masterclass. Don't miss it.

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