



# How to Build a Great Screenplay: A Master Class in Storytelling for Film

*David Howard*

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## **How to Build a Great Screenplay: A Master Class in Storytelling for Film** David Howard

Acclaimed USC screenwriting teacher David Howard has guided hundreds of students to careers in writing for film and television. Drawing on decades of practical experience and savvy, *How to Build a Great Screenplay* deconstructs the craft of screenwriting and carefully reveals how to build a good story from the ground up. Howard eschews the "system" offered by other books, emphasizing that a great screenplay requires dozens of unique decisions by the author. He offers in-depth considerations of:

- \* characterization
- \* story arc
- \* plotting and subplotting
- \* dealing with coincidence in story plotting
- \* classical vs. revolutionary screenplay structure
- \* tone, style, and atmosphere
- \* the use of time on screen
- \* the creation of drama and tension
- \* crucial moments in storytelling

Throughout the book, Howard clarifies his lessons through examples from some of the most successful Hollywood and international script-oriented films, including *Pulp Fiction*, *American Beauty*, *Trainspotting*, *North by Northwest*, *Chinatown*, and others. The end result is what could very well become the classic text in the field---a bible for the burgeoning screenwriter.

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