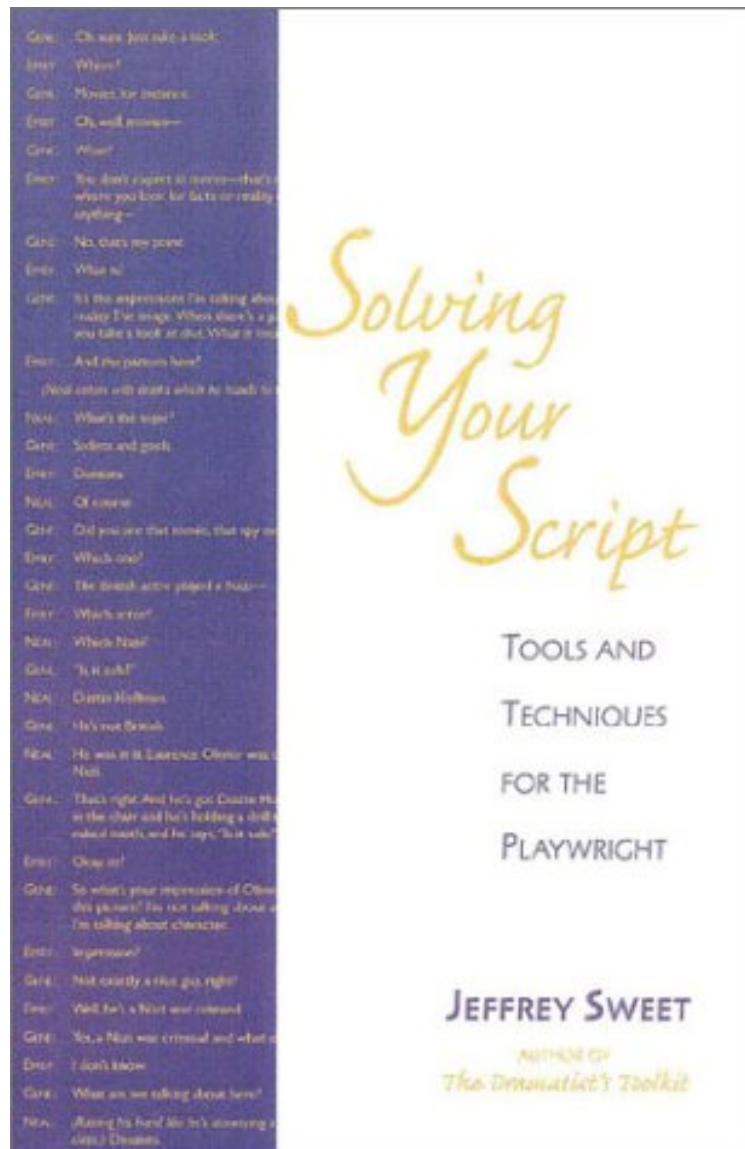


Solving Your Script: Tools and Techniques for the Playwright

Jeffrey Sweet

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#1540363 in Books 2001-02-15 2001-02-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .50 x 6.00l, .72 #File Name: 0325000530240 pages | File size: 59.Mb

Jeffrey Sweet : Solving Your Script: Tools and Techniques for the Playwright before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Solving Your Script: Tools and Techniques for the Playwright:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Noble Companion to "The Dramatist's Toolkit" By A Customer Since Jeffrey Sweet's "The Dramatist's Toolkit" is the book I recommend when people ask me about playwriting books, I ordered "Solving Your Script" as soon as I knew it was available. As I began reading it, I was

disappointed--most of the exercises are obvious to anyone who has read "Toolkit." (In fact last year I won a contest with a ten minute play I wrote as an exercise based on "Toolkit's" suggestion that characters' negotiation over an object can reveal their relationship.)As I continued reading, I realized that the benefit this book provides new and veteran playwrights is not the exercises; the guts of this book is the analysis Sweet provides for the scenes used to illustrate the exercises. Sweet teaches playwriting both at New York's Actors Studio and on the internet. "Solving Your Script" includes not only his own work but also scenes from his students. He footnotes the student scenes (sometimes on a line by line basis) to point out what he thinks works well and what he thinks could be rewritten. While reading any single set of footnotes is instructive, the cumulative weight of reading comments on scene after scene is significant. After reading the entire book, the attentive reader may feel she's saved herself a semester's tuition.From now on, when I'm asked for a recommendation for a playwriting book, I'll probably recommend that playwrights buy both "The Dramatist's Toolkit" and "Solving Your Script" and consider them a two volume set.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Alexandra PhillipsI love this book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good and helpfulBy L.S. CauldwellA good book to help with dialogue training and implementation. Explains and shows quite a lot of depth and understanding of how to set up your dialogue and how to deliver the lines so that your characters don't trip over their feet or sound flat and therefore unbelievable.

Solving Your Script is a hardheaded approach to solving technical problems in scripts. In down-to-earth chapters, award-winning playwright and screenwriter Jeffrey Sweet introduces tools enabling writers to: write exposition using the future tense make characters vivid even before they appear find the idiosyncrasies in a character that will generate story Each chapter includes a discussion of a particular technique, followed by an assignment from Sweet's workshop and scenes written by his colleagues and students. There are also detailed discussions of what works in the scenes, what is problematic, and why.

From the AuthorThis book came about because a number of the readers of THE DRAMATIST'S TOOLKIT asked me if I had exercises I assigned when teaching. These exercises form the spine of the book, but writing this also gave me the opportunity to explore new ideas I've stumbled on in the years since the publication of THE DRAMATIST'S TOOLKIT. This isn't a book of vague inspiration but one intended to make writers aware of the technical options that face them when trying to tell a story with actors.From the Inside FlapYou may not be able to study with award-winning playwright and screenwriter Jeffrey Sweet at New York's Actors Studio, but now you can take advantage of the next-best thing -- and you don't have to move to New York. SOLVING YOUR SCRIPT is a virtual workshop in a book, helping you develop the technical muscles you need to write for the stage, film and television. You'll discover tools to help you: * write exposition using the future tense * make characters vivid even before they appear * find the idiosyncrasies in a character that will generate story. Each chapter includes a discussion of a particular technique, followed by an assignment from Sweet's workshop and scenes written by his colleagues and students -- with detailed discussions of what works, what doesn't and why.About the AuthorJeffrey Sweet's plays - including *Porch*, *The Value of Names*, and *Routed* - have been presented off-Broadway, internationally, and in a variety of regional and developmental theatres. His *American Enterprises* won the American Theatre Critics Association Award for playwriting. His book for the musical *What About Luv?* won the Outer Critics Circle Award, and he is the author of the book and co-author (with composer Melissa Manchester) of the lyrics for the musical *I Sent a Letter to My Love*. Sweet has written drama, sitcom, miniseries, and TV movies for ABC, NBC, and CBS. His work has won the Writers Guild of America Award and been nominated twice for the Emmy.A popular teacher and author of many newspaper and magazine articles, Sweet is also the proud father of Jonathan Sweet.