

Developing Story Ideas

By Michael Rabiger

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The vast majority of screenplay and writing books focus on story development and have little to say about the initial concept that generated the piece. Developing Story Ideas offers writers a spectrum of resources and a structure of writing practice so that anyone can quickly and reliably generate a wide variety of stories in a broad range of forms. It first shows you how to observe situations, acts, and themes-and use these observations as the basis for storytelling. Exercises and projects help you draw an artistic self-profile to summarize what you most need to investigate in your creative work.

Micahel Rabiger, a renowned teacher, author, educator, and mentor, proves we all have the inner resources and life experiences to be creative. He guides aspiring writers step by step to come up with quality story ideas in a broad range of forms: a screenplay, short story, documentary, or play.

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Editorial Review

Review
"Using the tools of the screenwriter's trade... Rabiger reveals how to chart a scene and represent its intensity as a dramatic arc, as well as exploring how to analyse stories for effectiveness, meaning and purpose, which is relevant to film and video creators at all levels." - What Digital Camcorder

"Rabiger does a nice job, guiding the reader through the writing process from selecting a genre to creating the plot to developing interesting characters. If you'd like to become a better scriptwriter, this one is well worth the money." - Videomaker Magazine

"His program-between-covers for developing ideas into proposals that will sell is more textbook than narrative...The value of Rabiger's book for an individual writer almost surely depends on how that writer's mind operates." - The Writer, May 2006

From the Publisher
This book provides exercises and projects to help each person draw an artistic self-profile to summarize what he or she most needs to investigate in their creative work. It teaches narrative structure and critical language, and asserts that giving and taking criticism is an essential part of the creative process. It treats fiction and non-fiction as highly related - for fiction needs its roots in the real world, while documentary needs narrative drive and structure to impose meaning on its reality. All the assignments are illustrated with examples of student work and/or pieces drawn from classic works of literature and film, each followed by meaningful and sensitive commentary from the author. Throughout the book the author has placed boxed text to emphasize information that is critical to the success of a particular writing project or to the creative process generally. In this atmosphere people naturally form the friendships, creative partnerships, and teams that make filmmaking gratifying and productive.

From the Back Cover
Writing
Developing Story Ideas
Second Edition
Michael Rabiger

* Feeling stuck? Learn to quickly and reliably generate creative ideas for stories, scripts, and more .
* Four new chapters on basic drama concepts
* Includes over 50 exercises and projects to spark unique story ideas
* Step-by-step approach suitable for beginners

Developing Story Ideas, 2nd Ed. guides aspiring writers to generate quality story ideas in a broad range of forms: a screenplay, short story, documentary, novel or play. This book demystifies the artistic process and shows you how you can develop your own artistic identity. There are hundreds of writing books out there, but very few on how to come up with ideas in the first place - Developing Story Ideas, 2nd Ed. is one of those rare gems.

Developing Story Ideas, 2nd Ed. imparts the principles of dramatic analysis. Each project assignment is illustrated by examples from young writers, along with in-depth discussions. Dramatic language, principles, and critical method emerge in their working context. Immensely readable, this is a must-have book for

anyone wanting to write but might be intimidated by the process.

Michael Rabiger has directed or edited over 35 films, founded the Documentary Center at Columbia College, Chicago, and was Chair of its Film/Video Department. Now Professor Emeritus, Rabiger has been presented with the Preservation and Scholarship Award by the International Documentary Association, as well as the Genius Career Achievement Award by the Chicago International Documentary Festival in 2005. He is the author of the enormously successful, Directing: Film Techniques and Aesthetics (Focal Press), now in its third edition, and Directing the Documentary (Focal Press), now in its fourth edition.

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