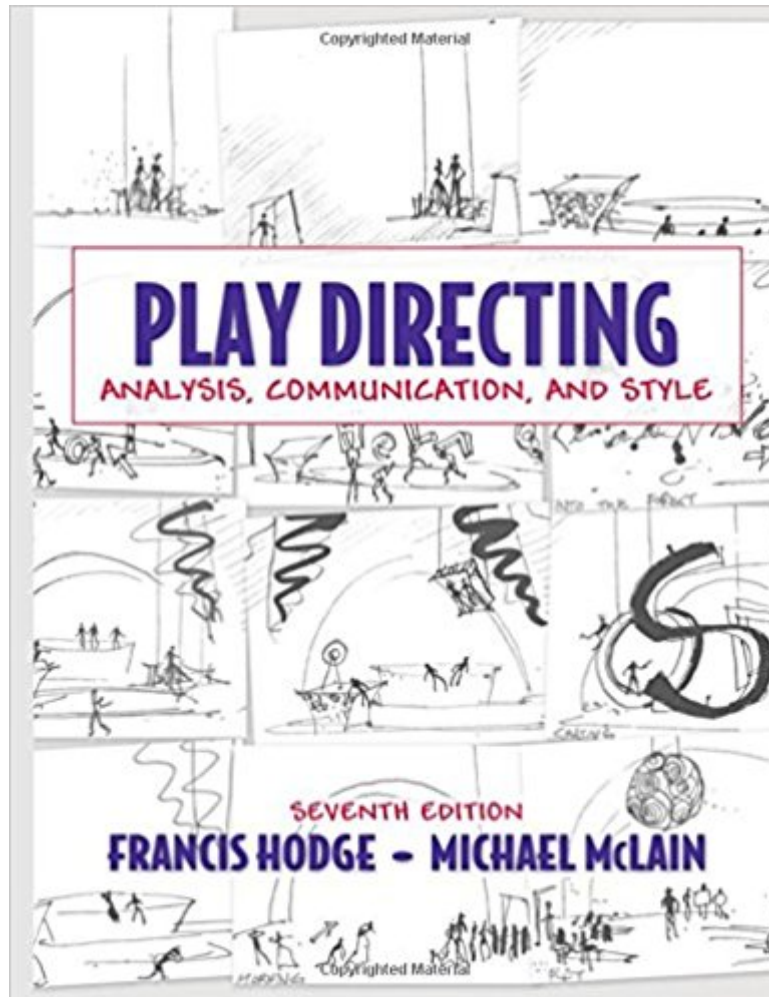


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# Play Directing: Analysis, Communication, And Style



## Synopsis

Play Directing describes the various roles a director plays, from selection and analysis of the play, to working with actors and designers to bring the production to life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The core knowledge and organization of theater is here. Not too basic. Does expand on topics. While getting a Masters Degree in motion picture writing and directing I took a class from the acting school which used this book. Most of the insights in the book apply to both plays and recorded performing arts though Hodge fully defines what makes play production different from the recorded mediums. The author is truly brilliant in his inclusiveness and insights into story telling using human performance. The book is not boring to those of us who love the detail that gives a deep understanding of how things work. While most books I've read about directing are only the author's limited viewpoint of that which they've experienced while directing, Hodge departs from this easy approach by producing a complete directorial viewpoint that gives the student of directing the broad tools necessary to handle the complex activity of play directing as a professional. You can't possibly go wrong by reading the third edition of this book; one hopes that the future editions are as fine. It was one of those life enriching reads that those of us who love to understand things will never forget. Thank you Francis Hodge.

20 plus years in the film entertainment industry and I just discovered this book (written in 1971). Though an executive producer, I am constantly being asked to direct community plays; I have

decline because I lack knowledge and confidence. Well Hodge's book (I call it the Bible) is a MUST for any individual who is interested in developing a story or characters for print, stage, screen, or interactive. I am in my second read through and my confidence has definitely matured.

I was introduced to this book as an undergrad. Nearly twenty-five years later, I picked it up and re-read the most important chapters, and I feel even more confident about this recommendation. Prof. Hodge's book gives you a way of working -- immediately -- and that's good, especially for someone going out there for the first time. His chapters on preparation and analysis are so well worded, it makes other important books on the same subject more understandable. The book is highly recommended for students, and as a reference for the rest of your life.

I studied directing under Francis Hodge at The University of Texas at Austin. REPEAT! I STUDIED DIRECTING UNDER HODGE HIMSELF!!! HE was not at all dry. Rather, he KNEW what he was talking about, much more so than his detractors claim. In his last years, a disciple(?) whom we shall call Walter Plinge attempted to teach his method, and according to good sources, had the TEMERITY to exclaim in class that Hodge himself DID NOT KNOW HIS OWN METHOD!!! Can you believe the gall (and BS) of this man? Take it from one WHO ACTUALLY STUDIED THE MAN'S METHOD WITH THE MAN HIMSELF, Francis Hodge, like Noel Coward, had more pure theatre knowledge in his little finger than anyone else had in their entire body. Hodge's method can be explained very easily: KNOW THE PLAY, INSIDE AND OUT!!! Be VERY careful what you interpolate. Hodge gives you a complete plan whereby the play itself provides all the information you need. Analysis: Learn the dramatic action, paying particular attention to the character's polar attitudes: Who they are at the play's beginning, and how they progress through to the end. Communication: Here, Hodge shows you how to attack the play on stage, constructing working groundplans and increasing dramatic tension by placement of actors, furniture, and objects to better tell the story. Style: Here is where you go into the individual nuances of the play: How they use language, are they straightforward or elliptical in their speech, etc, and how to pull the whole thing together. In other words, you just don't automatically play the climactic scene down center or down right; you PLAY IT WHERE THE PLAY ITSELF TELLS YOU TO PLAY IT! Sorry to be so vehement, but it galls me to no end to read the uninformed ramblings of someone who did not study with the man, and claim to know his method. I WAS THERE!!! At the risk of sounding pompous, here endith the lesson!!!

I'm glad I was able to BUY this book instead of rent it as usual since I will probably be able to get my money back if u decide to sell it. The hard cover is nice so it's less flimsy, plus it's small enough it doesn't weigh too much.

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