

Notes on Directing: 130 Lessons in Leadership from the Director's Chair

By Frank Hauser, Russell Reich

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More than a how-to book, this classic guidebook to the director's craft is a tool for those looking to translate the page to the stage—or to the screen—and is of immense value to actors, writers, students, and teachers. Essential for any student of theater or film, here is what all directors need to know—and what every actor, scriptwriter, and audience member wants them to know. It includes four appendices, an original acting exercise, a recommended reading list, and a helpful index.

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Editorial Review

Review
"...filled with smart, useful, thoughtful advice... I learned a lot from this remarkably straightforward book... it is invaluable." -- *Director Mark Lamos, Former Artistic Director, Hartford Stage*

"BEST PERFORMING ARTS BOOK OF THE YEAR" 2004 Ippy Award -- *Independent Publisher*

"BOOK OF THE YEAR" 2003 Silver Award -- *ForeWord Magazine*

"Frank Hauser's...wise and pithy observations on acting and rehearsing don’t age, reminding me how much I learned from him." -- *Sir Ian McKellen*

"OUTSTANDING BOOK ON THEATRE OR LIVE PERFORMANCE" 2003 George Freedley Award Finalist -- *Theatre Library Association*

"This book is so sensible, complete, and 'right,' that somebody might think it was not serious. They would be wrong." -- *Pulitzer Prize Winner Edward Albee*

"…if you need a practical manual of the craft, this book should be by your side." -- *Sir Richard Eyre, Former Artistic Director, Britain’s Royal National Theatre*

A highly useful, insightful, thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking look at the directing process. Essential for all performing arts collections. -- *Library Journal, April 1, 2003, in a starred review*

Clear, straightforward, dryly funny. Deserves to earn at least a million dollars, if not a Nobel Peace Prize. -- *The Wall Street Journal, February 13, 2004*

Like sitting down for sherry with a wicked and droll Oxford don...full of surprising interests and quirky delights. -- *American Theatre magazine, October, 2003*

From the Inside Flap
In 1987, British Director Frank Hauser quietly handed twelve pages of typewritten notes to his apprentice, American Russell Reich. The notes—gathered over a long career and polished to a sharp edge—documented the teachings and directions that Hauser shared privately with a host of theatrical and cinematic figures, including Sir Alec Guinness, Richard Burton, Peter O'Toole, Sir Ian McKellen, Dame Judi Dench, Kevin Spacey, and many others who called Hauser their director, mentor, teacher, or boss.

Now, the former student has expanded and enhanced his mentor's private notes into a book-length format suitable for anyone searching for the timeless gems of the director's craft. Drawing on years of training, decades of experience, and the distilled wisdom of leading practitioners, "Notes on Directing" is filled with enduring good advice expressed in assertive, no-nonsense language. More than a "how-to," this is a tool for directors looking to better translate the page to the stage -- or to the screen. With one hundred and thirty directives supported with explanatory commentary, helpful examples, and rare quotes, this deceptively slim volume has the impact of a privileged apprenticeship to a great master.

Whether you are a student or a professional, a playgoer, moviegoer, or enthusiast, Notes on Directing provides a thrilling glimpse into the hidden process of creating a live, shared experience.

About the Author

Frank Hauser, now deceased, formed the Meadow Players at Oxford University in 1956 and served as Director of Productions at the Oxford Playhouse for seventeen years, during which many of his productions were seen in London and New York. In 1968 he received the award of Commander of the British Empire (C.B.E.), one of the most prestigious honors granted by the Queen. Russell Reich is a creative director and lives in New York. He served as Visiting Artist in Residence at Harvard University, Artistic Associate at the Circle Repertory Company in New York, and was a member of the Circle Rep Director's Lab.

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