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# THE HOLLYWOOD STANDARD

THE COMPLETE & AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE TO SCRIPT FORMAT AND STYLE



CHRISTOPHER RILEY

## The Hollywood Standard: The Complete and Authoritative Guide to Script Format and Style (Hollywood Standard: The Complete & Authoritative Guide to)

*Christopher Riley*

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## **The Hollywood Standard: The Complete and Authoritative Guide to Script Format and Style (Hollywood Standard: The Complete & Authoritative Guide to)** Christopher Riley

Finally a script format guide that is accurate, complete, authoritative and easy to use, written by Hollywood's foremost authority on industry standard script formats.

## **The Hollywood Standard: The Complete and Authoritative Guide to Script Format and Style (Hollywood Standard: The Complete & Authoritative Guide to) Details**

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Author : Christopher Riley

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## **From Reader Review The Hollywood Standard: The Complete and Authoritative Guide to Script Format and Style (Hollywood Standard: The Complete & Authoritative Guide to) for online ebook**

### **Reneé says**

Fantastic! A must-have for aspiring or veteran screenwriters.

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### **Raymond Just says**

A clear, concise and hugely helpful guide to formatting. Nuff said.

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### **Benedict Reid says**

More a textbook really. Not really meant to be read cover to cover... but very handy to have beside your writing desk.

Why would anyone need a book about Script Formatting if they own Final Draft? It's a question that Christopher Riley has obviously been asked often because he makes a point of addressing it directly in the introduction to this edition of his popular book. "Standard format is about infinitely more than margins. It's knowing when to add a shot heading and when to leave one out. It's knowing how to get out of a POV shot and how to set up a montage. It's knowing what to capitalize and how to control pacing and what belongs in parenthetical character direction and whether those automatic (cont'd)s beside dialogue should be turned on or off."

But perhaps the best sign that this book is really very useful is on <http://johnaugust.com> where the incredibly successful scriptwriter announced that he would stop answering questions about formatting because "The Hollywood Standard" was so "refreshingly straightforward and anticipates most of the situations screenwriters are likely to face."

Aside from useful advice about how to handle txt messages in a script, and other abnormal formatting situations, Riley's book is at its most useful when describing how to format your script to make life easier for script readers (and therefore your script more likely to be liked). I particularly liked the details of how to break up long sequences of action without dialogue so that they don't seem too dense on the page.

A warning however: this book is very, very dry. Riley has attempted to sprinkle humour throughout, but it really is an impossible task to make margins and headings interesting. That said, I'm pleased I read it from cover to cover as I would have missed many of the most interesting bits of advice if I'd just used it as a reference book. The book now lives beside my writing desk, to be referred to when I'm doing the final polish and spell-check of a script before sending it out.

### **Chris Weigl says**

When I first started writing all I had was this and Blake Snyder's book. As it turns out, early in my career, these were the only books I needed. This book gives you everything you need to format correctly. Once you get beyond the draft stage you'll have the benefit of others in the process who can help with the technical details you may be missing. As it turns out though you don't need a lot of those technical details.

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### **David says**

Awesome book for anyone wanting to learn how to write screenplays. This is not about story or acts, it's simply about the right formatting.

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### **Jose Gonzales Jr says**

A simplistic breakdown of screenplays... Straightforward textbook for independent filmmakers and screenwriters

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### **Ben says**

Christopher Riley clearly articulates the formatting standards of Hollywood, while still managing to captivate your interest. Both informative and entertaining. Don't write your script without first reading this book.

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### **Joshua Rigsby says**

Perfect guide for the new screenwriter. Step by step instructions, real life examples, and a little humor to spice things up. Some of the material is slightly dated, but not enough to inhibit the book's usefulness. I highly recommend it!

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### **Christina Rause says**

This was one of a few instructional non-fiction books on my list and it was an invaluable resource in re-educating myself about writing screenplays, The guide is easy to get through, laid out well, includes several relevant examples, and (perhaps best of all) is made to lay flat and is sized perfectly to put your printed pages beside the examples. This gives you a great way to compare and contrast, edit your work, and see where there's room for improvement. If you're looking to get into writing screenplays, this book is a must have.

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### **Bob Conder says**

Although there is a lot of great information, most of it is either old, or presented in a confusing way.

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### **Karla says**

Very helpful. A lifesaver. Now permanently on my bookshelf between my Bible and Syd Field's Screenplay.

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### **Mollie says**

This book is exactly what every screenwriter needs to have beside his/her computer. Riley answers almost every question imaginable in here with regard to format. People like Fields, Snyder, and McKee put you on the right track for character development and breaking up acts, but Riley teaches about all the nuances for formatting shot headings, directions, dialogue, and transitions. It's a must read in my opinion for anyone serious about screenwriting.

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### **Omar Shehab says**

A definitive guide for screenplay formatting.

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### **Author says**

A great guide for screenwriters on formatting and basics. It has examples that lay everything out for you as if you're looking at a page of a script, and a handy glossary and index to help you find exactly what you're looking for. I'd still recommend reading a lot of scripts to see how things are changing and being done, but this is great tool to get you started. Definitely useful to keep near the desk if you're a screenwriter, and even taught me a few things I hadn't thought to ask/research.

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### **Jonathan says**

This is exactly what I wanted. How to format a screenplay.

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