



Writing for Dough: Adventures of a T.V. Comedy Writer

Bill Idelson

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Writing for Dough is a witty, insightful, inside look at the business of scriptwriting, by a man who has spent a lifetime in every aspect of the business. Bill Idelson had a script in his hand almost as soon as he learned to read; his childhood was spent in front of a microphone as a young actor during the Golden Age of Radio. As both he and the media grew up, he made the segue into television, appearing as a recurring character on such classic shows as The Dick van Dyke Show, M.A.S.H, and The Odd Couple. He began a writing career in 1960 with an award-winning script for The Twilight Zone.

This illustrious career was to include scripts for virtually all the major comedy shows from 1960 on: The Dick van Dyke Show, Andy Griffith, Gomer Pyle, Bewitched, Get Smart, Love American Style, The Allen Sherman Special and many more. Bill Idelson was story editor for such shows as The Odd Couple and Happy Days, wrote numerous pilots, including Barefoot in the Park and Anna and the King, based on The King and I. He has worn the producer's hat for The Bob Newhart Show. In the midst of this frenzied activity he also wrote a sci-fi horror film that grossed a fortune for its studio. He is the recipient of two prestigious Writers' Guild Awards for his scripts, both of which are included in this book.

Writing for Dough is a lively view of life as a writer during the decades of TV's Golden Age. Through invaluable technical information interwoven with personal experiences, Bill Idelson generously shares the real 'how to' info that he learned through over 20 years of professional writing. Covered are such topics as getting a break, writing with a partner, how deals are made, organizing a script outline, pitching ideas, plotting, and much more. Three award-winning scripts are included, so that the reader can see exactly how it is done.

The author pulls no punches. Writing for Dough is written with clarity, humor and above all, honesty. An amazing amount of practical information is packed into its pages. There is not another like it in the field; it is a must-read for anyone interested in professional script-writing, television, comedy or simply the story of a fascinating career.

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