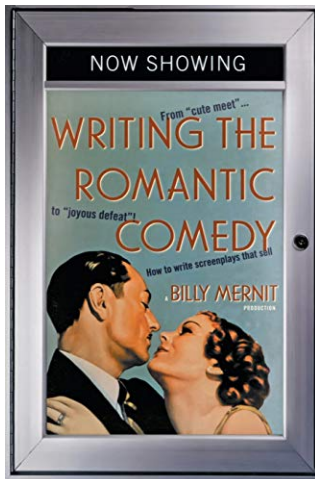


# [PDF] Writing The Romantic Comedy

Billy Mernit - pdf download free book

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## Books Details:

Title: Writing the Romantic Comedy

Author: Billy Mernit

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Language:

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## Description:

According to Billy Mernit, all the Hollywood studios--and most major actors--"are actively seeking romantic comedies." But the same studios and actors reject hundreds of romantic comedies a month. Mernit should know. As a story analyst who has read nearly 4,000 screenplays in the last 10 years, Mernit has seen the good, yes, but also too much of the bad and the ugly. With *Writing the Romantic Comedy*, Mernit presents his UCLA Extension rom-com writing workshop in book form. Believe it or not, it's not enough to have Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks play the leads. You actually have to create characters for them--characters that an audience will believe "absolutely *must* end up together." Mernit manages to lay down ground rules without seeming rigid: "he can't be in it only for the sex"; "she can't be in it only for the money"; "at least one scene or sequence [should be] laugh-out-loud funny." Mernit offers five ways to bring your characters to life and seven basic romantic comedy "beats." He has chapters on chemistry, humor, dialogue, and sex ("in romantic comedy, there's nothing sexier than *sublimated* sex"), and he draws generously upon the surprisingly small canon of great romantic comedies to demonstrate his points. Finally, given that the conflicts in romantic comedies are internal, you needn't look far for inspiration when you feel stuck. "Think of one of the most painful, humiliating, embarrassing things that ever

happened to you with someone of the opposite sex," he says, and go from there. --*Jane Steinberg* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**Review** "Writing the Romantic Comedy is so much fun to read it could pop a champagne cork." -- -- *Alexa Junge, writer/producer of Friends* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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So, you want to write a romantic comedy. The same rules apply to romantic comedy as with any romance. First and foremost you are writing a romance. You want your readers to identify with your heroine and fall in love with your hero. Why does comedy go so well with romance? Comedy is most effective when common, everyday themes are given an obscure twist, which helps us to see comedic events in our lives that we normally would not recognize. Romantic comedy is not about laughing at other people, it is about laughing at ourselves. Falling in love is a huge challenge, because if it does not go smoothly (and no romantic comedy will go smoothly) it challenges all we like to believe about ourselves. 2: The Romantic Comedy Story Concept. 3: A Brief History of Romantic Comedy. 4: The Twenty-First Century Rom-Com. Originally based on a course I've taught at the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, this new edition of Writing the Romantic Comedy is conceived to be a complete contemporary romantic comedy screenwriting workshop in one book. Where I'm coming from. The various theories and pronouncements found in this book are based on my having a foothold in a number of relevant camps. Great romantic comedies that really work are rare. Expert William Mernit reveals 6 romantic comedy writing secrets to help make your work a success. At the core of any great romantic comedy is some kind of thematic idea grounded in the writer's personal point of view. Why are you writing this particular story about this specific couple? What about their story reflects some insight you have about the relations between men and women or the human condition? What question are you asking that your screenplay's story development answers? Highfalutin' as it may sound, the romantic comedies that endure -- and strike a real chord with their audiences -- are the ones that explore universal issues. 'When Harry...' is about wh