

# Writing Short Film Scripts

A Student Guide to Film-making

PAUL KOOPERMAN



**insight**

Copyright © Paul Kooperman, 2009

This edition first published in 2009 by:  
Insight Publications Pty Ltd  
ABN 57 005 102 983  
219 Glenhuntly Road  
Elsternwick Victoria 3185  
Australia.

Tel: +61 3 9523 0044  
Fax: +61 3 9523 2044  
Email: books@insightpublications.com.au

[www.insightpublications.com.au](http://www.insightpublications.com.au)

Reproduction and Communication for educational purposes:  
The Australian Copyright Act 1968 (the Act) allows a maximum of one chapter or 10% of the pages of this work, whichever is the greater, to be reproduced and/or communicated by any educational institution for its educational purposes provided that the educational institution (or the body that administers it) has given a remuneration notice to Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) under the Act.

Reproduction and Communication for other purposes:  
Except as permitted under the Act (for example, any fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review) no part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, communicated or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All inquiries should be made to the publisher at the address above.

For details of the CAL licence for educational institutions contact:  
Copyright Agency Limited, Level 19, 157 Liverpool Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
Telephone: (02) 9394 7600; Facsimile: (02) 9394 7601; E-mail: [info@copyright.com.au](mailto:info@copyright.com.au)

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication data

Kooperman, Paul.  
Writing Short Film Scripts: a student guide to film-making.  
1st ed.  
ISBN 9781921411083  
For secondary school age.  
1. Short films--Authorship. 2. Short films--Study and teaching (Secondary)

791.4360712 (pbk)

Cover design: Carmelina Heberle  
Internal Design: Susannah Low  
Editing: Dianne Bramich  
Printed in Australia by Hyde Park Press

# Contents

<b>A Note for Teachers</b>	iv	Prepare schedules and call sheets	74
<b>Script</b>	<b>1</b>	Do your research and work hard	81
Plot	6	Stick to short and long-term deadlines	82
Character	12	Communicate on all matters	84
Theme	15	<b>Shoot</b>	<b>87</b>
Language/Dialogue	18	<b>Shape</b>	<b>101</b>
Music/Rhythm	27	Film editing	103
Spectacle/Surprise	29	Editing techniques	104
Summary	31	Crucial factors in post-production	108
Formatting	34	<b>Screen</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>38</b>	Evaluation and self-assessment	112
Producer	40	Get your film out there	114
Writer	42	Making another film	117
Director	43	<b>Index of Films</b>	<b>119</b>
Other possible roles	46	<b>Photocopiable sheets</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Storyboard</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>About the Author</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Structure</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>122</b>
Respect the hierarchy	64		
Hold meetings	67		
Accept change	71		
Make lists	71		













