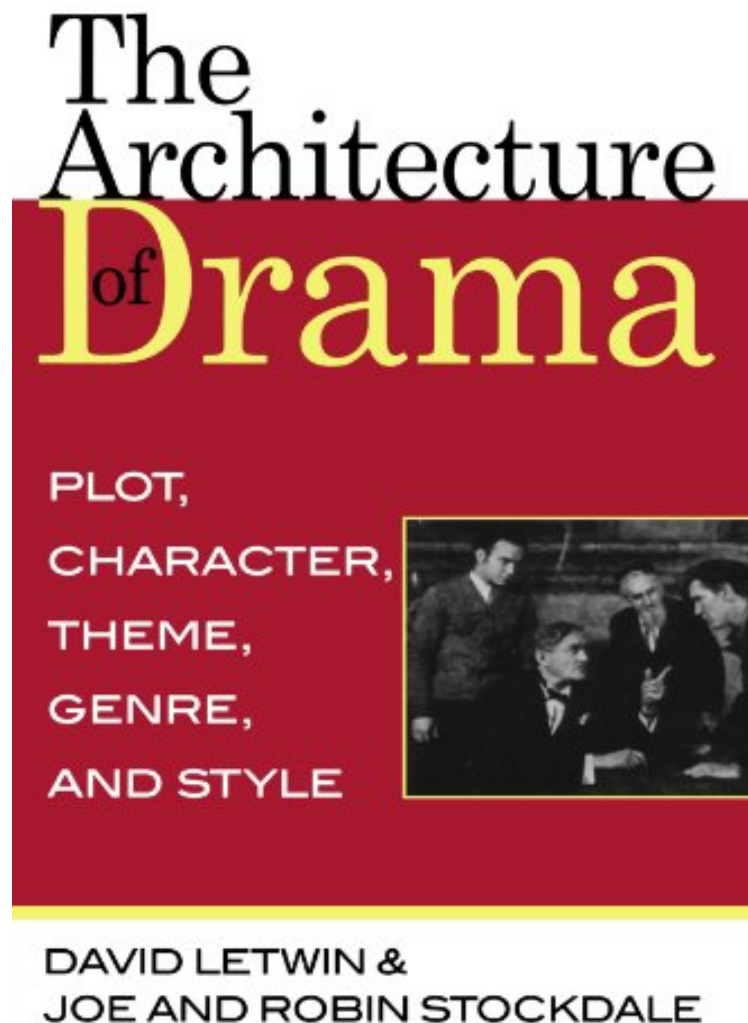


(Ebook pdf) The Architecture of Drama: Plot, Character, Theme, Genre and Style

The Architecture of Drama: Plot, Character, Theme, Genre and Style

Joe Stockdale, David Letwin, Robin Stockdale
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Joe Stockdale, David Letwin, Robin Stockdale : The Architecture of Drama: Plot, Character, Theme, Genre and Style before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Architecture of Drama: Plot, Character, Theme, Genre and Style:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Play Analysis Starting Point By FantasyFreak25 This book is a great jumping off point. For those who have a background in scene study or play analysis, you'll know most of it, but

it's still a great thing to have in your drama library. It's well written, well constructed, understandable, and placed in a logical order. It's an easy read- they don't try to get fancy just to sound special. It explains what you need to know. I personally bought this book for a class, but I would recommend it highly. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jones Useful breakdown for anyone interested in drama or writing. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. On the mark analysis By Renee Bain The title of this book, *The Architecture of Drama*, intrigued me. While we all know that great drama has "structure," I never thought of it as being "architectural." But it is, of course, and plays and films that don't work suffer from bad architecture according to the authors David Letwin and Joe Stockdale, both veteran theater professionals and educators, and Mr. Stockdale's journalist wife, Robin. For writers, the greatest challenge is not the actual writing, but the architecture of the story. After reading this insightful, to-the-point and wonderfully entertaining book, I'll never think of drama quite the same. The authors stress that creative thought and inspiration isn't enough to forge memorable drama if the structure, the craft, the architecture--the plot, characters, theme, style, and genre--isn't strong and grounded in time-honored Aristotelian principles that can, and should be taught. Hopefully, their thoughtful, easily accessible approach to creating great drama, whether on the stage, on the screen, or in novels, will end up in the backpacks of every young person aspiring to a successful theater, motion picture, or writing career, and on the shelves of university and public libraries. The authors' analysis of popular, classic plays and films--why some worked and some didn't--makes for fascinating reading for everyone, professional and layman alike. After all, as the authors point out in this delightful, compelling book, the architecture of drama mirrors the architecture of our everyday lives. We can all learn something from it.

Many of the world's greatest dramas have sprung not only from the creative impulses of the authors but also from the time-honored principles of structure and design that have forged those impulses into coherent and powerful insights. An understanding of these principles is essential to the craft of creating and interpreting works of drama for the stage or screen. *The Architecture of Drama* provides an introduction to these principles, with particular emphasis placed on how a drama's structural elements fit together to create meaningful and entertaining experiences for audiences. The book is arranged into five sections, each dealing with a separate component: Plot (the selection and arrangement of events in the story) Character (the choices and actions taken by the people in the plot) Theme (the artist's point of view on the topic addressed) Style (the characteristic mode through which the drama expresses itself) Genre (the type of story being presented) Through a range of examples from *Oedipus Rex* to *The Wizard of Oz*, the authors examine these structural building blocks both separately and in their interdependent relationship to one another. Along the way they also illustrate how these principles reflect the innate human need for comprehension and order. *The Architecture of Drama* provides an accessible, straightforward insight for anyone who seeks a deeper understanding of plays and films.

Because of time restrictions, I rarely review books that I receive. However, "*The Architecture of Drama*" approaches the issues of dramatic writing and production with such clarity and ease I feel obligated to make the theatres of Hampton Roads, where I review national tours, local productions of plays, musicals and operas for WHRO-FM, aware of it.... This richly detailed analysis of how dramatic literature is created and moved from page to stage or screen is a standing room only house full of down to earth knowledge. It belongs in all libraries, both personal and public. (Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large) Enhanced by a comprehensible yet never patronizing style, this title on the technique of drama is recommended to update collections in college and university libraries as well as larger public libraries. Theater instructors should consider this for course adoption. (Library Journal) Streamlined, readable study.... Recommended. (Choice) ""Enhanced by a comprehensible yet never patronizing style, this title on the technique of drama is recommended to update collections in college and university libraries as well as larger public libraries. Theater instructors should consider this for course adoption."" About the Author David Letwin teaches at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Joe Stockdale is Professor and Dean Emeritus of Theatre and Film, School of the Arts, SUNY, Purchase. Robin Stockdale is a retired columnist for the Pawling News Chronicle.