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The Complete Idiot's Guide to Comedy Writing

James Mendrin

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James Mendrin : The Complete Idiot's Guide to Comedy Writing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Idiot's Guide to Comedy Writing:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Essential Reading for Anyone Even Thinking about Writing Comedy.By ConstantReaderNYCThis book is tremendously helpful because it articulates the logical framework underneath comedy. I now have names for processes I was intuitively using. I feel I now have a better grip on how to control the comedy writing process that has been running around hog wild in my head. There is so much useful info as well as thought provoking exercises. At one point early on the book asks you to figure out what is funny to you and then really think about why. That exercise provided so much insight into things I usually take for granted. The book also lays emphasis on how to develop and maintain your authenticity. There is also a motivational element to it, the author talks to the reader like he believes we all have the ability to write comedy even if we don't all become comedians. There's a friendly, accessible, light tone throughout. It's funny too and I appreciate that the author delivers academic like information with a humorous tone. There is also advice from other comedians which offers additional helpful points of view.I don't understand why there are any negative reviews. This is such an informative and comprehensive guide. I don't have a single criticism. A must buy for anyone even thinking about writing comedy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Standup Comedy BibleBy Steve MonossonJim clearly knows what he's talking about. Anyone who thinks that he or she is funny and aspires to share than funniness with the world should read this book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. InformationalBy Janine HaynesI read this book along with taking Jim Mendrin's class at NYU. I thoroughly enjoyed both. Mendrin has a knack at breaking down a

subject in a simplistic, methodical way. Out of all the classes I've taken at NYU in the Screenwriting Certificate Program, Jim's class (as well as his book) was well worth it. His book is jam-packed with information to help those interested in not only writing comedy but understanding comedy on its primal level. Thanks, Jim, for writing this....I've learned a lot!

Comedy is serious business-and serious money. In this guide, comedian, writer, and teacher Jim Mendrinis explains the principles of comedy and how to apply them to forms from stand-up to sitcoms- including fiction, film, speeches, articles, essays, and more. He also includes exercises designed to hone the craft, break through writer's block, and tailor a piece to its intended audience.

About the Author James Mendrinis is a New York-based writer and comedian and long time comedy writing teacher for the Gotham Writers Workshops. He is a former touring stand-up comic, working with Chris Rock, Colin Quinn, and Sam Kinison, and has appeared on Comedy Central. He was the sole writer for USA Network Presents: The Problem Child, starring Gilbert Gottfried, and has written and contributed to numerous other network projects for MTV, NBC, and more. He is also an active writer for film and stage, including many film options and over 60 stage productions in New York City.