

Books on Directing

The following are some of the standard texts used in courses on Directing. My favourite -- by far -- is *A Sense of Direction*; however as its author points to the Dean and Carra book as his favourite you should be aware that any one book may not provide you with as much material as you would like.

The Shapiro book is a brief introduction to important elements that offers a good preview of the type of work in which you will engage. David Ball's book on reading plays is masterful and is a must-read first step for play analysis. All of the other books are textbooks with sections that cover all of the basic areas of direction.

Warning: much of the writing style in these books is outmoded, but the principles remain sound.

Ball, David. *Backwards and Forwards: A Technical Manual for Reading Plays*. Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 1983.

Ball, William. *A Sense of Direction: Some Observations on the Art of Directing*. Hollywood: Drama Publishers, 1984.

Black, George. *Contemporary Stage Directing*. Fort Worth: Holt, Rinehart and Winston Inc., 1991.

Cohen, Robert and Harrop, John. *Creative Play Direction*, 2nd Ed. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1984.

Dean, Alexander and Lawrence Carra; *Fundamentals of Play Directing*, 4th edition, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1980

Hodge, Francis and McLain, Michael. *Play Directing: Analysis, Communication, and Style*, 6th Ed. Boston: Pearson Ltd., 2005.

Shapiro, Mel. *The Director's Companion*, Harcourt Brace College Publ., 1998.

Sievers, W. David, Stiver, Harry E. Jr., Kahan, Stanley. *Directing for the Theatre*, 3rd Ed. Dubuque, Iowa: 1974.

For multimedia examinations of directing check out the videos on directing at *The American Theatre Wing*

(<http://www.americantheatrewing.org/wit/>) and the short documentary on the life of Peter Brook by his son Simon entitled *Brook on Brook* (Paris: Agat Films and Cie. 2002).