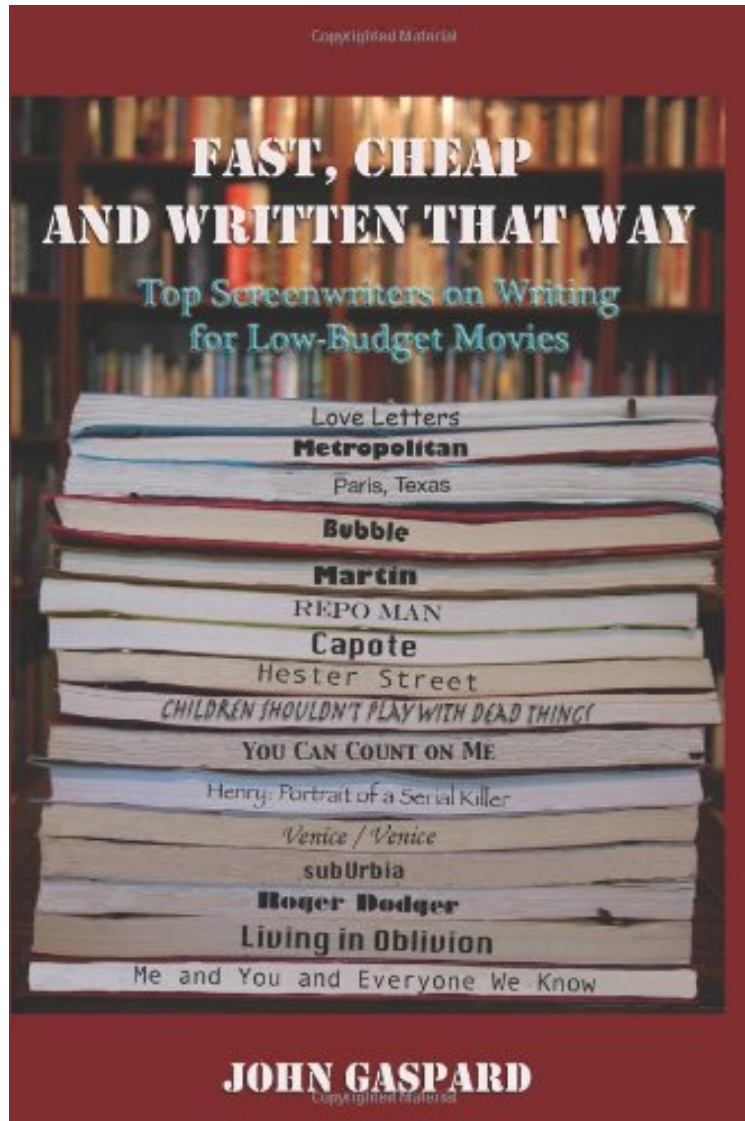


# Fast, Cheap Written That Way: Top Screenwriters on Writing for Low-Budget Movies

John Gaspard

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#1994579 in Books John Gaspard 2009-11-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .73 x 6.001, .96 #File Name: 1449585868322 pages Fast Cheap Written That Way Top Screenwriters on Writing for Low Budget Movies | File size: 46.Mb

**John Gaspard : Fast, Cheap Written That Way: Top Screenwriters on Writing for Low-Budget Movies** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fast, Cheap Written That Way: Top Screenwriters on Writing for Low-Budget Movies:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I Suspect Earlier 2007 Reviews Are From the Author's Friends

FamilyBy Writer/Producer/DirectorThis book is entitled "Fast, Cheap Written That Way: Top Screenwriters on Writing For Low-Budget Movies." You would assume that the book would contain information on how to write a screenplay for a film that can be filmed quickly and inexpensively. You would think. After all, that's what the title states. But, no. The book is a collection of interviews with various filmmakers and screenwriters. However, THERE IS NO FOCUS IN THE INTERVIEWS ABOUT THE ELEMENTS OF SCRIPTWRITING THAT BEST RESULT IN A FILM THAT IS BOTH QUICK AND CHEAP TO PRODUCE. Suggestions like writing a script that limits the number of locations and characters (cast-members) would be obvious yet helpful. But, no, there is no discussion about either. In fact, the final chapter contains "30 Lessons" from the various interviews. Again, not one of the lessons is specific to low-budget filmmaking. I'll be returning my copy for a refund immediately. Overall Grade: F.5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Interviews Open Up The World of Low Budget Film-MakingBy Matthew TerryI will admit two things: 1. I'm on the verge of making my own low-budget film and, 2. I've only seen four of the 23 films talked about in this book. Thank God for Netflix. This is a companion to the equally great book: "Fast Cheap Under Control" about the making of low-budget films. John Gaspard has collected 23 interviews from the screenwriters (and sometime directors) of many low budget films. Some of these films have been nominated for Academy Awards ("Capote") while others have taken their rightful place in the genre upon which they reside ("Re-Animator"). You will find every type and stripe of film here from period pieces to adaptations to original works. What makes this book excellent but equally frustrating for a wannabe film-maker as myself, is that the interviewees all have different stories. I know that may sound like an odd statement but couldn't they all have done it easily? So I could feel better about making my film? - Yes, I'm kidding. :) Of course the reality is that these interviewees talk of their struggles, their lucky breaks, the use of a connection or two. How something fell into someone's lap, how an investor walked through the door just at the right time, how they got that great shot, how they stretched that \$5 into \$10 or begged, borrowed or stole their way to a completed film. John Gaspard ends the book with a "Thirty Lessons" learned chapter where he explores the lessons he learned while interviewing these writers. This chapter is worth the price alone. The book is both fascinating and empowering. It makes me want to make my film even more so I can learn from their mistakes and, sadly, make my own. My only complaints about this book is that I would have liked two things: I would have liked a capsule description of each film. Since I was unfamiliar with 19(!) of them, that would have helped me understand a bit what the writer was talking about in terms of plot line or story instead of gleaning it from how they answered the questions. And, though Mr. Gaspard gives the reader a page of distributor and release year of all the films discussed, I would have liked more information such as how wide the release was, running time, how much the original budget was, how much the film actually cost and how much it made. Plus a little more on the writers themselves, other films they have written or works they have written would have been excellent. Ultimately this is a great book exploring the idea of the low-budget film world through the writers that created it! Everyone started somewhere, that somewhere is described here.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. My Dinner with GaspardBy Todd E. BabcockIf you are a fan of interview books (i.e conversations)as this author, and I, most obviously are, then this is for you. I grabbed this one on a lark looking for some inspiration along the dented and gray road to writing after spying Whit Stillman, Dylan Kidd and Kenneth Lonnergan's names included among the interviewees.The book covers many varied viewpoints and not a one comes without some kernel of insight that had my highlighter being repeatedly uncapped to keep certain insights fresh.The filmmakers you may want to breeze over suddenly catch you by surprise with some startling insight and things you assumed were planned and calculated with your favorite films you discover were pure accidents of necessity (budget, time, etc).The great lesson is, write what you can do, then do it.I actually parsed my chapters out so I wouldn't run through it too quick.It won't write your screenplay for you but it'll make you want to.

Hollywood's top screenwriters look back at their early low-budget efforts and provide valuable tips, tricks, and advice on how to create a solid screenplay for a low-budget movie. Includes in-depth interviews with: Tom DiCillo (Living in Oblivion), Whit Stillman (Metropolitan), Richard Glatzer (Grief), Henry Jaglom (Venice/Venice), Dan Futterman (Capote), John McNaughton (Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer), Coleman Hough (Bubble), Rebecca Miller (Personal Velocity), Stuart Gordon (Re-Animator), Joan Micklin Silver (Hester Street), Ali Selim (Sweet Land), Stephen Belber (Tape), Eric Bogosian (subUrbia), George Romero (Martin), Bob Clark (Children Shouldn't Play With Dead Things), Roger Nygard (Suckers), Alex Cox (Repo Man), Amy Holden Jones (Love Letters), Kenneth Lonergan (You Can Count On Me), Dylan Kidd (Roger Dodger), LM Kit Carson (Paris, Texas), Kasi Lemmons (Eve's Bayou), and Miranda July (Me and You and Everyone We Know).

About the AuthorJohn Gaspard has directed and/or produced six low-budget features, including the digital feature, Grown Men, which premiered at the Ashland International Film Festival and won the "Best of Fest/Best Screenplay" award at the Black Point Film Festival.