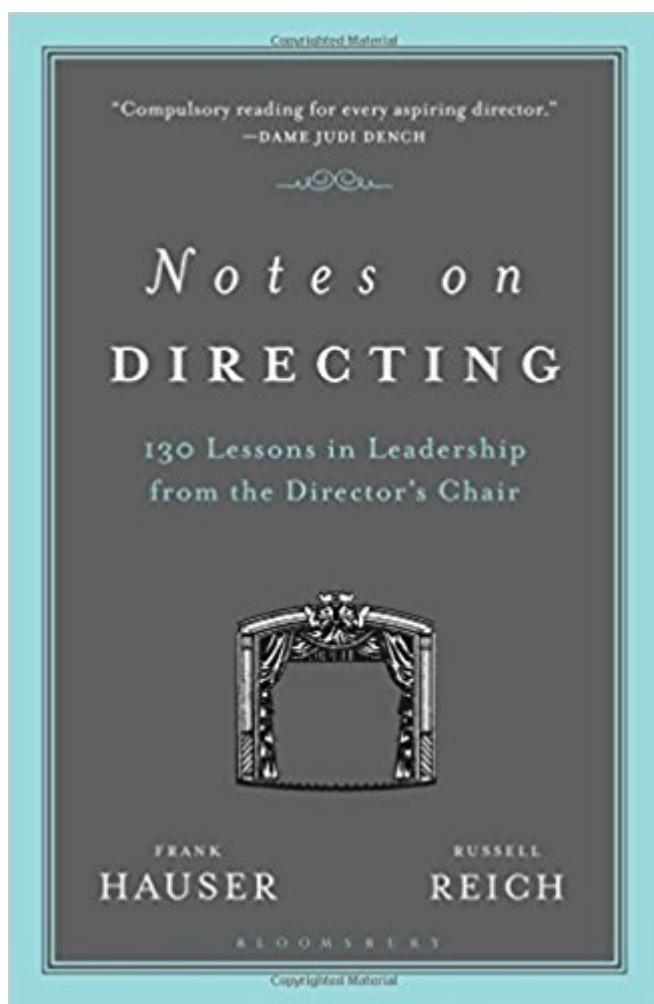


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# Notes On Directing: 130 Lessons In Leadership From The Director's Chair (Performance Books)



## **Synopsis**

Five years ago, Frank Hauser, then a retired freelance director, and writer Russell Reich, his former student, self-published *Notes on Directing* in hardcover. It was immediately acclaimed as "a gem-witty and full of insight;" "so sensible, so complete, and so right;" and "amazingly illuminating" by the likes of Judi Dench, Edward Albee, and Terry Teachout. Gathered over Hauser's long career, and polished to a sharp edge by Reich, the 130 "Notes" address a wide range of topics, from "understanding the script" and "defining the director's role" to casting, how to handle a first read-through of a script, rules for rehearsal, how to talk to actors, how to get a laugh, and the key elements of staging. Filled with enduring good advice expressed in assertive, no-nonsense language, and supported with explanatory commentary, insightful quotes and examples, and five valuable appendices, this deceptively slim book has the impact of a privileged apprenticeship to a great master, providing deep insight into the hidden process of creating a live, shared experience. It can be appreciated by everyone from the student aspiring to a directing career to the professional looking for new ideas to the theater-lover wanting insight into the creative process. Indeed, *Notes on Directing* offers life lessons to all who read it.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"...filled with smart, useful, thoughtful advice... I learned a lot from this remarkably straightforward book... it is invaluable." -- Director Mark Lamos, Former Artistic Director, Hartford Stage"BEST

PERFORMING ARTS BOOK OF THE YEAR" 2004 Ippy Award -- Independent Publisher"BOOK OF THE YEAR" 2003 Silver Award -- ForeWord Magazine"Frank Hauser's...wise and pithy observations on acting and rehearsing don't age, reminding me how much I learned from him." -- Sir Ian McKellen"OUTSTANDING BOOK ON THEATRE OR LIVE PERFORMANCE" 2003 George Freedley Award Finalist -- Theatre Library Association"This book is so sensible, complete, and 'right,' that somebody might think it was not serious. They would be wrong." -- Pulitzer Prize Winner Edward Albee"if you need a practical manual of the craft, this book should be by your side." -- Sir Richard Eyre, Former Artistic Director, Britain's Royal National TheatreA highly useful, insightful, thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking look at the directing process. Essential for all performing arts collections. -- Library Journal, April 1, 2003, in a starred reviewClear, straightforward, dryly funny. Deserves to earn at least a million dollars, if not a Nobel Peace Prize. -- The Wall Street Journal, February 13, 2004Like sitting down for sherry with a wicked and droll Oxford don...full of surprising interests and quirky delights. -- American Theatre magazine, October, 2003

In 1987, British Director Frank Hauser quietly handed twelve pages of typewritten notes to his apprentice, American Russell Reich. The notes gathered over a long career and polished to a sharp edge; documented the teachings and directions that Hauser shared privately with a host of theatrical and cinematic figures, including Sir Alec Guinness, Richard Burton, Peter O'Toole, Sir Ian McKellen, Dame Judi Dench, Kevin Spacey, and many others who called Hauser their director, mentor, teacher, or boss. Now, the former student has expanded and enhanced his mentor's private notes into a book-length format suitable for anyone searching for the timeless gems of the director's craft. Drawing on years of training, decades of experience, and the distilled wisdom of leading practitioners, "Notes on Directing" is filled with enduring good advice expressed in assertive, no-nonsense language. More than a "how-to," this is a tool for directors looking to better translate the page to the stage -- or to the screen. With one hundred and thirty directives supported with explanatory commentary, helpful examples, and rare quotes, this deceptively slim volume has the impact of a privileged apprenticeship to a great master. Whether you are a student or a professional, a playgoer, moviegoer, or enthusiast, Notes on Directing provides a thrilling glimpse into the hidden process of creating a live, shared experience.

5 stars = I Love It, which is how I feel about this book. It is NOT a "how to" guide to directing. Instead, it's a reflection on issues and tasks that arise while directing. These are "notes" on

directing, not lessons. Hauser reminds you of things you should know (how to treat actors with respect) and how get the best work out of yourself and your cast. Reading this book is like sitting down with your favorite directing teacher or having a drink with colleagues. Read it straight through the first time -- the book progresses naturally from reading the script through casting and rehearsals, to specialty sections on Talking to Actors and Getting a Laugh. After that, you may choose to dip in out, for ideas and inspiration. I return to this book every time I'm starting a new project. It makes me smile and prepares me for the work ahead.

I have over 30 years in the acting business and can attest to the great advice in this book. I also teach and have done some minor directing gigs -- I used this for a directing workshop recently and found it to be of great value. It boils down what many directing books talk about (all good books too)

A book full of good advice for the novice and experienced director alike. It's in what has become a very popular format- Quick little notes that are easy to absorb and review. The entire book can be read in an hour or two. I have been on a hiatus from directing for a few years, and in preparation for a new directing role, I found this the perfect book to bring me up to speed again. I plan on reading it every six months or so- there are many excellent tips to remind a director of the ways to handle leadership and the crucial interactions between actors, director, and crew. Highly recommended.

I found this to be just what I needed in my search for a book on directing, in my case directing theatre and despite the many other larger or more well-known books on the subject out there, Notes on Directing was all I needed to get me going.I felt like I spent a day with an expert giving me all his advice as we walked through the deserted rooms, halls and stage of an old theatre in London.It also reminded me of Strunk and White's The Elements of Style book for writing, in that it contains clear, direct notes for doing things right. Of course in this case the rules can and probably should be broken to be made your own, but the advice is still much appreciated, helpful and invaluable.This is a small read that I happened to enjoy immensely.

Loved the sharpness and wit. The direct approach works here and there is a lot of insight in these pages that have the potential to help a director elevate her work.

This is one of the best books on directing that I've read. Has great ideas to inspire you to get the next level from your actors and the production. I'd recommend it for someone who is an experienced

director and wants to work up to another level.

As an actor it does provide you with insights into a director's art and by doing so it increases your perspective and adds to your knowledge of the stage and its various elements. I recommend it highly.

Essential to the new director. I am directing my first play and even though I have been an actor for 15 years there is so much more to know. I have read several other "how to direct" and this is by far the best. Buy it.

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