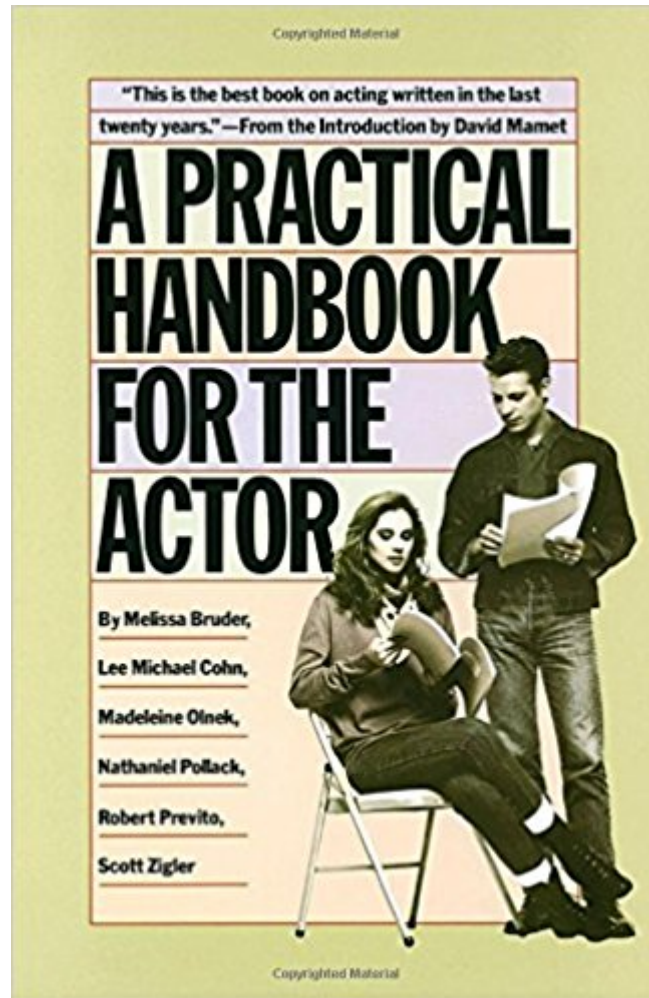




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# A Practical Handbook For The Actor



## Synopsis

This is a simple and essential book about the craft of acting describes a technique developed and refined by the authors, all of them young actors, in their work with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet, actor W. H. Macy, and director Gregory Mosher. *A Practical Handbook for the Actor* is written for any actor who has ever experienced the frustrations of acting classes that lacked clarity and objectivity, and that failed to provide a dependable set of tools. An actor's job, the authors state, is to "find a way to live truthfully under the imaginary circumstances of the play." The ways in which an actor can attain that truth form the substance of this eloquent book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is the best book on acting written in the last twenty years." --from the introduction by David Mamet  
"Simple, clear and concise--just what was needed. A deeply interesting and valuable piece of work." --Sidney Lumet  
"This terse and lucid handbook might well be for the actor what Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* is for the writer." --John Guare  
"This book is wonderful. It is clear, direct, and to the point, with none of the hokum that accompanies most books on the theatre, especially about acting. I learned an enormous amount." --Robert Benton  
"This beautifully written book offers a clear guide to the most profound acting technique I know. Every young actor should read it, re-read it, and then keep it under his pillow." --Lindsay Crouse

6 working actors describe their methods and philosophies of the theater. All have worked with

playwright David Mamet at the Goodman Theater in Chicago.

I read lots of books about acting but none of them was concise, up to the point and real summary. This book by itself is enough to give you all the information about the acting. It explains a great technique which really helps a lot on the stage. It also explains how to apply this technique in different conditions, with different directors, actors, methods. It has also troubleshooting page for many different use cases/scenarios. It should be really "under the pillow" book for anyone who is into acting

In an age where many American acting coaches won't push much further than helping actors with 60-second auditions, this is the real deal. Highly recommended for someone serious about the language of theater and film. How to make a deeper connection to the heart of a great story. This book explores the difference between those who think acting is pretending to look like a person who is feeling something -- and those who feel the job is based in real actions.

I truly enjoyed this beauty, it packs a lot of tips, wisdom, advice, etc... within an seemingly small text. Of course, you should also pay close attention to your other resources (i.e. your instincts, prior training) but this is great if you can't get to certain resources, or pay for this, whatever. As many other reviewers has mentioned this book does break down constant techniques and turn them from complicated to understandable. I'm relatively new to the "acting realm" mainly because I'm just now getting back into auditions, monologues and what accompanies that. I'm more of the jack-of-all-trades kind of girl, because I love to write, create music, sing, produce, direct, and of course acting, but through it all when I wasn't getting any auditions, blah, blah I ended up just sliding away from acting, but still having that same love for it. I needed something else quick, that I could afford and could keep with me on regular while learning more than what I originally knew with having some sensible tips on issue I was suffering on. This book was it, I suggest you read it, because it'll definitely come in high regard.

I can only review it as as an aspiring actor in his 30s who is just starting to explore acting techniques, this book is a good starter, offering brief, simple, easy to understand, practical step by step techniques to break down scenes and to perform. It is very well written, easy to read, and serves the purpose as a quick practical handbook. I enjoyed reading it, and will surely be using it as a small reference book again and again. I wish it could be more expanded, longer, or could include

more tips and advice. But I guess aspiring actors will have to refer to many other books to gain more knowledge on various other techniques and styles to build our foundation, help us push further. I highly recommend this book. But I'm certainly getting a few other ones as well to broaden my scope.

I love it, a simple technique that will get you out of your head! Forget about all 40 steps analysis and only use the things necessary to do the scene. Unless 40 Steps analysis works for you!

In the last few years I have felt that all of the acting classes I have taken felt wrong to me like I was not being true to myself and it made acting burdensome. I went searching for something else and I found it here. I decided to sign up for a class at The Atlantic Acting School and read this book as assigned by the school. I am excited about acting all over again. This feels right.

I used this book to teach a beginning acting class at our community college. It is an excellent introduction to the craft. The book gives clear examples of selecting an action that create clear and exciting choices for the actor. Rather than focusing on emotional states such as "you're angry or you're happy," the text shows how to allow emotional truth to come from the moment while focusing on what the character is doing. The examples in the book are practical and relate well to the craft. I particularly appreciated that an action should have a test in the other character. So rather than a character delivering a letter with an action "to deliver" that is over without fanfare, a more exciting action would be "to please my boss so I'll get a promotion." The character still delivers a letter, but with a more dynamic action that is interesting to watch. The book is short. I covered the material in our film acting and stage acting units in about eight classes. It's short, sweet & to the point. I recommend it as a great review for experienced actors and as a wonderful introduction to beginning actors. Enjoy!

Succinct and to the point. Bruder Writes a phenomenal guide that reminds those who have had formal training in acting, or can guide the aspiring layman in how to approach a role. Short enough to read in a single sitting, but can also be used as reference as you develop your part, whether your production is high school, collegiate, community or Equity.

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