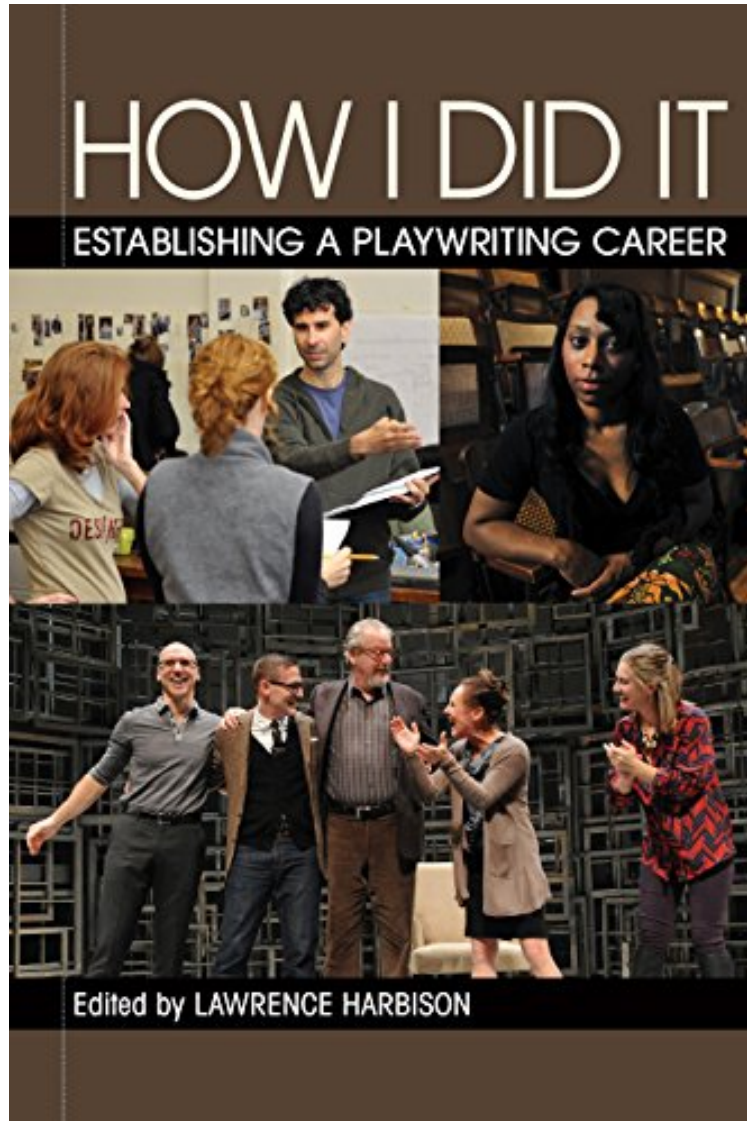


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## How I Did It: Establishing a Playwriting Career

*Lawrence Harbison*

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**Lawrence Harbison : How I Did It: Establishing a Playwriting Career** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How I Did It: Establishing a Playwriting Career:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Encouraging book for early career playwrights. By Kat Metcalf As an early career playwright I found this book interesting to see the different paths various mid-career playwrights took. I wouldn't say this book is a "how to", nor could it be, as one of the greatest lessons of the book is that there is no path. Hard work, perseverance, and a willingness to put yourself out there seem to be the common denominators. So why by this book, if we already knew those things? Well, personally, I found the anecdotes about certain Lit Mgrs and festivals made them more relatable and less scary than before. I was also encouraged that most of the playwrights

included in the book struggled, just as I am with my own career. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I only got about 6 interview in. In every ...By Bella BotI only got about 6 interview in. In every single on, the playwright uses the phrase "I was incredibly lucky"False advertising, if you ask me. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Info for PlaywrightsBy B.J. BurtonHOW I DID IT provides essential information for anyone interested in the business side of playwriting, including specific details on names, dates, productions and theatres--an outstanding resource!

(Applause Acting Series). For this book, Lawrence Harbison has interviewed successful playwrights who have developed relationships with theaters that regularly produce their plays, have had at least one major New York production, have their plays published by a licensor such as Dramatists Play Service or Samuel French, have received commissions, and have an agent. Harbison asks each of them the same question: How did you do it? How I Did It features an introduction by Theresa Rebeck and interviews with David Auburn, Stephen Belber, Adam Bock, Bekah Brunstetter, Sheila Callaghan, John Carlani, Eric Coble, Jessica Dickey, Kate Fodor, Gina Gionfriddo, Daniel Goldfarb, Kirsten Greenidge, Rinne Groff, Lauren Gunderson, Michael Hollinger, Rajiv Joseph, Greg Kotis, Neil LaBute, Deborah Zoe Lauffer, Wendy MacLeod, Itamar Moses, Bruce Norris, Lynn Nottage, Aaron Posner, Adam Rapp, J.T. Rogers, Lloyd Suh, Carl Thomas, Sharr White, and Anna Ziegler. A valuable tool for playwrights daunted by the extremely difficult task of getting their work produced, as well as to playwriting students, How I Did It is full of stories of how it's done.

"How I Did It: Establishing A Playwriting Career is a critically important addition to community and academic library Writing/Publishing reference collections." --Midwest Book "Harbison is a compelling writer and interviewer, but what keeps you reading this book isn't his questions or his prose. What keeps your attention is that, in a profession full of discouragement and despair, he does (you should pardon the expression) God's work. He encourages everyone sitting at a keyboard and cranking out plays to not give up. Nearly every writer in this book struggled with despair, with the absurdity of what he or she was trying to do. Some had high-profile flops, crushing disappointments. Yet somehow, they put one foot in front of the other, kept working and eventually, they were "discovered." Eventually, they got productions. Some also wrote movies and TV shows, some even had Broadway hits. In the ever-discouraging world of the business of shows, who could ask for anything more?" --Talkin' BroadwayIn addition to describing, "how they did it," playwrights also shared stories about their background. They spoke about their writing style, their habits, and their inspiration. They gave details about the journeys of specific plays. Set in Q and A format, the book is worth a read to anyone wanting to learn more about contemporary playwrights in the U.S. --Boston Area Small Press and Poetry Scene BlogAbout the AuthorFor more than 30 years, LAWRENCE HARBISON was in charge of new play acquisition for Samuel French, Inc. He edits annual anthologies of best plays by new playwrights and women playwrights, best ten-minute plays, and monologues for men and for women. He was a member of the Drama Desk Nominating Committee for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 seasons and is a member of the Outer Critics Circle and the Drama Desk. He works with individual playwrights to help them develop their plays.