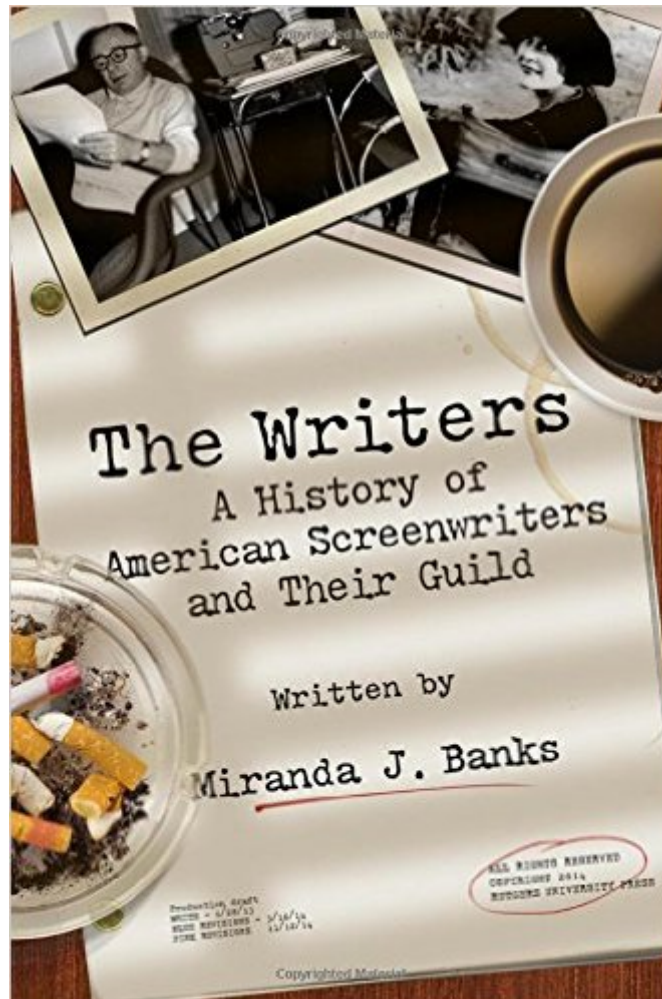


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# The Writers: A History Of American Screenwriters And Their Guild



## Synopsis

Screenwriters are storytellers and dream builders. They forge new worlds and beings, bringing them to life through storylines and idiosyncratic details. Yet up until now, no one has told the story of these creative and indispensable artists. *The Writers* is the only comprehensive qualitative analysis of the history of writers and writing in the film, television, and streaming media industries in America. Featuring in-depth interviews with over fifty writers—including Mel Brooks, Norman Lear, Carl Reiner, and Frank Pierson—*The Writers* delivers a compelling, behind-the-scenes look at the role and rights of writers in Hollywood and New York over the past century. Granted unprecedented access to the archives of the Writers Guild Foundation, Miranda J. Banks also mines over 100 never-before-published oral histories with legends such as Nora Ephron and Ring Lardner Jr., whose insight and humor provide a window onto the enduring priorities, policies, and practices of the Writers Guild. With an ear for the language of storytellers, Banks deftly analyzes watershed moments in the industry: the advent of sound, World War II, the blacklist, ascension of television, the American New Wave, the rise and fall of VHS and DVD, and the boom of streaming media. *The Writers* spans historical and contemporary moments, and draws upon American cultural history, film and television scholarship and the passionate politics of labor and management. Published on the sixtieth anniversary of the formation of the Writers Guild of America, this book tells the story of the triumphs and struggles of these vociferous and contentious hero-makers.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Rutgers University Press (January 14, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813571383

ISBN-13: 978-0813571386

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #588,941 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #238 in [Books > Business & Money > Industries > Performing Arts](#) #256 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Industry](#) #486 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Screenwriting](#)

## Customer Reviews

Carefully researched but maintaining a colloquial style and an ear for dialogue appropriate to the

subject matter, this is a highly readable, quickly-paced cross-section of the history of the US film and TV industries using the through-line of writers' relationship with their employers. It connects dots between eras often left in discrete histories, providing reflections and echoes amid the evolving, ever-present struggle for recognition, money, and control and how various successes or failures in that struggle played out in events such as the blacklist or the scramble for new digital media platforms. Also: interesting tidbits on how traditions of authorship and rights evolved in various directions within the film, tv, theater, radio, and book worlds, and how the legal framework for each profoundly shaped how each is experienced today. Plus: fun anecdotes told by funny storytellers.

A wonderfully researched and comprehensive tome exploring writers and their guild. Great anecdotes and quotes pepper this book, taking the reader on a historic journey from the 1920's to present day Hollywood. Great for writers, fans of behind-the-scenes Hollywood stories, film students and the like.

We don't often think about it, but the Writer's Guild has been on the forefront of some of America's biggest moments and movements from the Labor Movement to McCarthyism to the Women's Movement.

I just loved reading this book! In it, Banks has beautifully woven together an incredibly important history of our storytellers. This book, quite incredibly, pulls together the story of film and television writers. And, just as they have written stories that make us laugh, think and cry, so has Banks, about them. In some ways, this story is just as exciting, frustrating, and powerful as any of the stories they have authored\* with us over the last century!

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