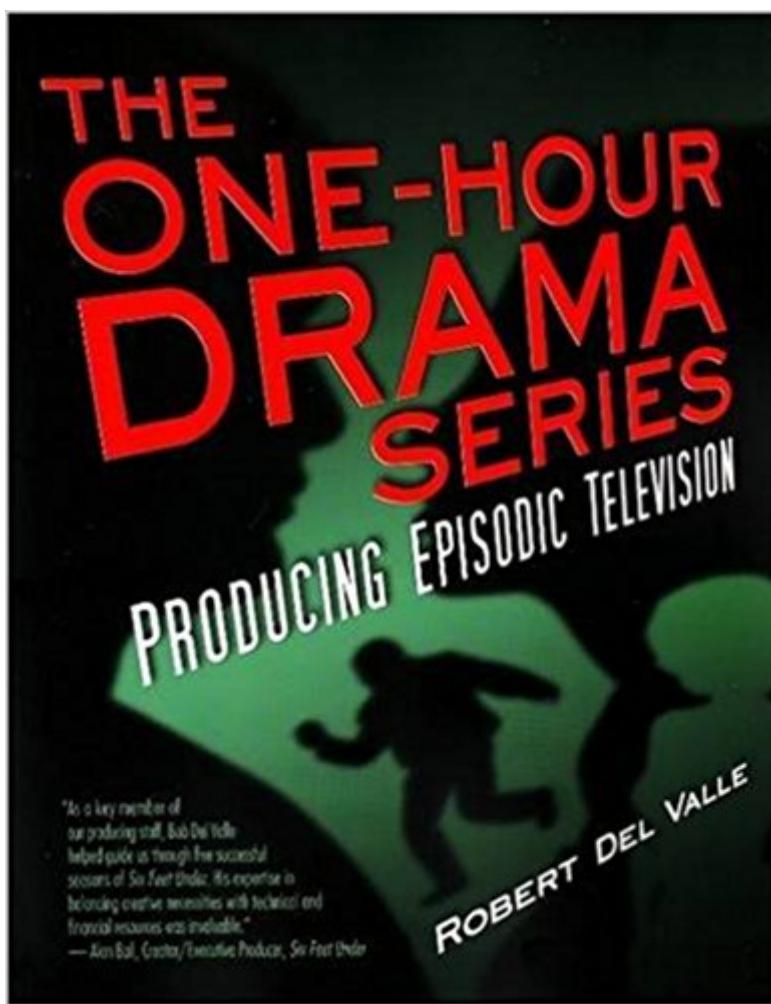


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# The One-Hour Drama Series: Producing Episodic Television



"As a key member of our producing staff, Bob Del Valle helped guide us through five successful seasons of *Sex & City*. His expertise in balancing creative necessities with technical and financial resources was invaluable."  
—Ari Eshkol, Creator/Executive Producer, *Sex & City*



## **Synopsis**

The hour-long drama, the staple of primetime television, is here dissected, examined, and discussed by a highly regarded, highly successful pro. The author's thorough knowledge of television producing, gleaned from his years of work on major, influential drama series, is here distilled and presented in a friendly way that will keep producers-to-be avidly turning pages. Charts, script excerpts, useful forms, and a glossary of industry terms embellish an in-depth text that takes the reader from a nascent series concept through the production and sale of its pilot to a broadcast or cable network. Every step along the way is covered, including finding a fresh series concept developing the pilot casting hiring directors, writers, and key crew members budgeting script breakdown scheduling production prep production, from hair and makeup through transportation and shooting post production accepted accounting procedures selling a pilot what to do if your series is picked up interacting with studios and networks Written for a readership that encompasses young, aspiring producers and production students as well as industry insiders who wish to move into production work, this is the ultimate guide to current television drama production methods and skills.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 414 pages

Publisher: Silman-James Press (April 15, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1879505967

ISBN-13: 978-1879505964

Product Dimensions: 9 x 7.1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #204,838 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Reference #61 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Direction & Production #190 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Screenwriting

## **Customer Reviews**

Robert Del Valle...has succeeded in writing a thorough book on producing one-hour drama episodic television shows that is at once informative and accessible. Comprehensive details are given in such a way as to lure the reader in, interspersed with personal 'observations', as well as those of experienced, award-winning professionals who write, produce, direct, shoot, post and edit some of

the best hours of television that have aired on network and cable...Although the title states that this book is for producing the one-hour television drama, I would suggest that this book be part of every producer's personal library regardless of the genre in which he or she works...This book covers the many duties and responsibilities that comprise the job of a good producer, regardless if it's for a webisode, a sitcom, drama or multi-million dollar feature film...Beginning with an overview outlining the fundamental differences between film, TV dramas and TV sitcoms, Del Valle does a magnificent job explaining life in television production, specifically life on a one-hour drama...Mr. Del Valle's book should be required reading for anyone and everyone who desires to enter television production. It is also recommended to everyone working on a show who only may have worked in one little corner of production; this book clearly shows how all the pieces fit together and how one action - or inaction - in any given department impacts all other departments. -- Produced By (The Magazine of the Producers Guild of America), Summer 2008

Every step along the way is covered, including \* finding a fresh series concept \* developing the pilot \* casting \* hiring directors, writers, and key crew members \* budgeting \* script breakdown \* scheduling \* production prep \* production, from hair and makeup through transportation and shooting \* post production \* accepted accounting procedures \* selling a pilot \* what to do if your series is picked up \* interacting with studios and networks

Somewhat new to the field, I've found this book incredibly helpful in learning my way around producing episodic television, and the industry in general. It's always such a gift when someone experienced shares with others the lessons they've learned. So grateful to have found my way to this book.

I've produced long-form and short films for year. And needed some accurate info so I wouldn't sound stupid pitching & interview for series gigs. This book has absolutely everything I needed to know about the production of a one-hour drama. Highly recommend it.

I met Robert in a class at UCLA extension and he is a very experienced industry professional with tons of insight to share. This book is filled with specifics on how to plan and run a show.

love this book. very insightful, gives an interesting behind the scenes look at television for people who love that stuff

An excellent reference book to have on hand for those working in television.

a fantastic exposure to the world of episodic TV production. i thought i had some sense of how difficult it is to produce an hour of television each week, but i really had no idea. if you're interested in working in the field, or are just curious about how it is that a feature film takes many months to produce, but your favorite TV show arrives every week, this book will clear a lot of things up for you. it certainly gave me a lot more respect for the people who do this kind of work. however, since Mr. Del Valle is in the business of communication, i feel justified in trashing his writing style. like a lot of people, he's terrified of inclusive pronouns — that is, "HE" being understood as "HE or SHE". this results in a lot of tortured sentence constructions, on almost every page. he gives it a little variety: sometimes, instead of saying "he or she", he'll say "he/she". when he's really striving for effect, he'll say "they", in sentences which call for a first person singular. it gets pretty labored. are radical feminists standing over the poor guy's shoulder with a bull whip? or maybe he had an editor who did all of this, which is what happened to me when I wrote "The Art of Figure Drawing". yeah, it's a side issue. but Mr. Del Valle knows the value of communicating things cleanly and economically, considering his success in the film industry. when did the English language come to be used so defensively, so as to offend nobody, rather than simply to communicate with grace and artistry? but the book's totally worth reading.

You will not find a better book on television production. Fast-paced, thorough and completely entertaining, it's not what you'd expect in what's sure to be a school textbook one day. He tells stories of his days in Hollywood that will leave you wondering as to whom he is referring to. But ever the gentleman, Mr Del Valle will go to his grave with those secrets. He sure doesn't leave anything out when it comes to the real deal, producing a show. He lays it all out there. He tells you what he learned from the mistakes he made so you don't have to make 'em too. In a town where most people make more of themselves than they are, it's refreshing to meet someone who, well, doesn't. This guy's got the goods. His knowledge, gained from 30+ years of experience in the biz, would serve anyone in a managerial position well. Very informative AND entertaining. You won't be able to put it down!

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