

Screenwriting 101: John Milius

[Scott Myers](#)



John Milius flanked by a couple of dudes who know a thing or two about story

"A writer's greatest fear now is not that he's going to be no good when he sits down to write. A writer's greatest fear is that he's going to be brilliant and that no one will read it, that no one can read it, that no one knows the difference because they read these stupid "How to write a screenplay" books. It's made people into idiots. In the old days the writer's greatest fear was always, this time out, it just isn't going to happen. I just won't have the stuff. Now the fear is that I'll have it, but those little jerks from Harvard Business School won't be able to understand it. Because these MBAs can follow instructions, they read these books and say your script

has to have these characters and those turning points. They ask questions like, 'Who are you rooting for at the end of the first act?' I was never conscious of my screenplays having any acts. I didn't know what a character arc was. It's all bullshit. Tell a story."

— John Milius

Via [AdviceToWriters](#)

For 100s more Screenwriting 101 posts, go [here](#).