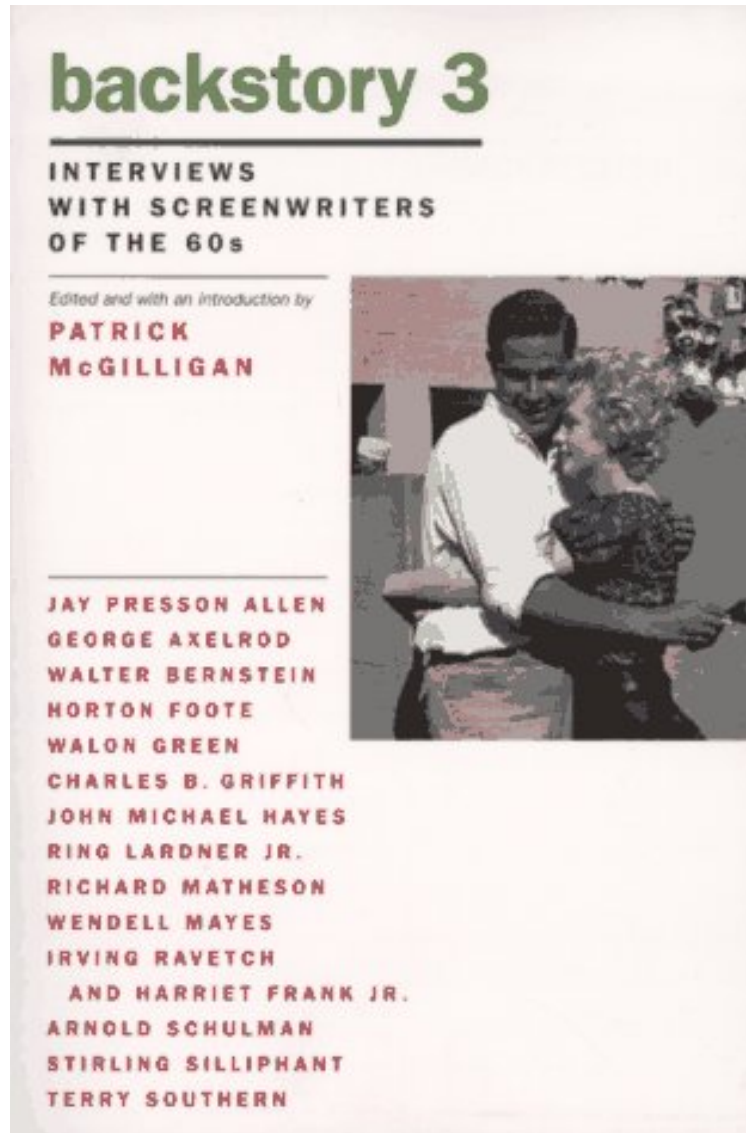


(Download free pdf) Backstory 3: Interviews with Screenwriters of the 60s (Backstory Series)

## Backstory 3: Interviews with Screenwriters of the 60s (Backstory Series)

Patrick McGilligan

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**Patrick McGilligan : Backstory 3: Interviews with Screenwriters of the 60s (Backstory Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Backstory 3: Interviews with Screenwriters of the 60s (Backstory Series):

The Backstory series of unique "oral histories" chronicles the lives and careers of notable Hollywood screenwriters in their own words. Backstory: Interviews with Screenwriters of Hollywood's Golden Age focused on the early sound era and the 1930s. Backstory 2 featured Interviews with Screenwriters of the 1940s and 1950s. Backstory 3 takes up the history of American screenwriting in the 1960s, through the experiences of fourteen key scenarists. These lively interviews, conducted by Pat McGilligan and others, feature Jay Presson Allen, George Axelrod, Walter Bernstein, Horton Foote, Walon Green, Charles B. Griffith, John Michael Hayes, Ring Lardner Jr., Wendell Mayes, Irving Ravetch and Harriet Frank Jr., Arnold Schulman, Stirling Silliphant, and Terry Southern. The series has proven useful and edifying for film students, scholars, and historians, for screenwriters and other professionals, and for film buffs in general. Applauded by reviewers and named among the "100 essential film books" by a Los Angeles Times-appointed panel, it is cited often and quoted in many film histories.

.com Backstory 3, a fascinating anthology of interviews with some of moviedom's best screenwriters, covers, in the words of its editor, "one of Hollywood's rockiest periods, the decade of the 1960s, when the studios were undergoing a process of collapse and renovation, when turmoil in the world meant extreme changes in narrative style and screen values, when events in Hollywood, as elsewhere, sometimes seemed a confusing, delirious stampede." One of the surprises of Backstory 3 is that many of the writers of the '60s "youth films" were middle-aged by that time, established and serious craftsmen who felt little of the contempt for movies that their screenwriting predecessors held. Through the conversation of the marvelous Jay Presson Allen, George Axelrod, Walter Bernstein, Horton Foote, Charles B. Griffith, John Michael Hayes, Ring Lardner Jr., Richard Matheson, Stirling Silliphant, Terry Southern, and others, we get a sense of the '60s as the last gasp of the old Hollywood generation, the end of the studio system, and the beginnings of modern cinema. From Booklist McGilligan's third book of interviews with screenwriters upholds the high standards that led a Los Angeles Times panel to designate its predecessors two of the "100 essential film books." The 15 subjects this time include Walter Bernstein, whose *The Front* reflected his experience with the 1950s anti-Communist Hollywood blacklist; Horton Foote, Oscar winner for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Pulitzer laureate for *The Young Man from Atlanta*, and author of *A Trip to Bountiful*, too; Irving Ravetch and Harriet Frank Jr., husband-and-wife coauthors of *Hud*, *Norma Rae*, and other literate, socially conscious scripts; and the late black humorist Terry Southern, who wrote a screenplay a year, though after 1970 only one was produced. All 15 are complainers but highly listenable nevertheless. Ray Olson *From the Inside Flap* "Backstory 3 targets the 1960s, probably the most neglected period in American film history. These screenwriters are extremely articulate, and one would be hard pressed to find better, more vivid or compelling accounts of what Hollywood was like during this period." Matthew Bernstein, author of *Walter Wanger, Hollywood Independent*