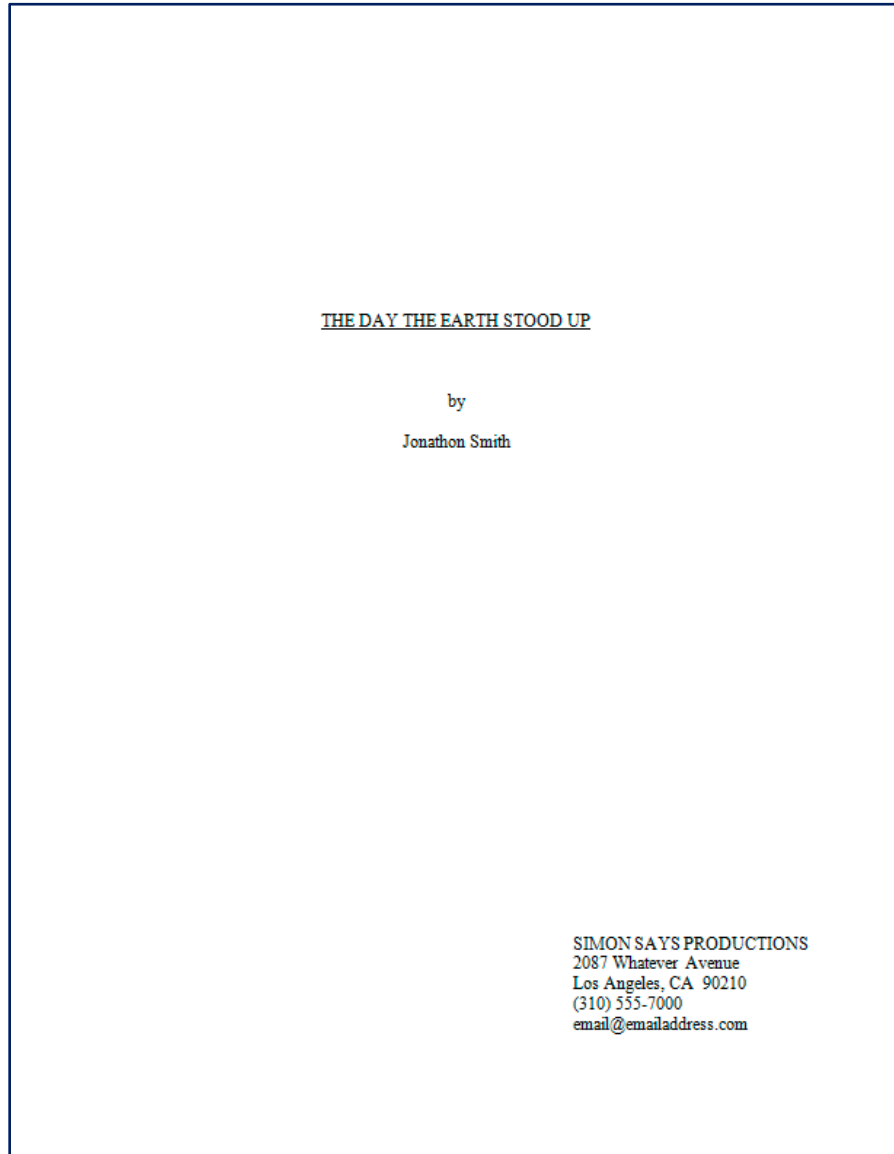


Title Pages

I. Type One: Ordinary Screenplay

Below is an example of what most screenplay title pages will look like:



The Title should ALWAYS be in ALL CAPS and located about 1/3 of the way down the page. Optionally, you may add a continuous underscore (continuous meaning the spaces between words are also underlined.)

The word “by” is typed four spaces below the Title and in lower-case. The Author’s Name is double-spaced below that. There are other ways to show that you wrote the screenplay, such as “screenplay by” or “teleplay by” or “written by.” Just make sure it is all lower-case.

Contact information is placed at the bottom-right side of the page. It is shown right justified here, but it doesn't have to be so long as it is at the bottom right. If you have an agent, list them (their company name in ALL CAPS) and show all the information you can, including phone number and email address. If you don't have an agent, list your personal information, but don't include your name as it is already in the By-line.

And whatever you do, DO NOT:

- Put the Title inside quotation marks,
- Date your work.
- Add dedications.
- Add WGA or copyright registration information.
- Indicate what draft the screenplay is.
- Try to dress it up with phrases like "A Jonathan Smith Production" in an attempt to look professional. You are not fooling anyone.
- Spice up the page with a tag line.

II. A Revised Script

Another type of script you may need to create a title page for at some point will be one that has been through several revisions. The Writer's Guild of America requires that scripts in progress list all writers who have worked on it. Eventually someone will make it official as to who gets screen credit if the movie is produced, but before that, every writer is recognized on the title page. As a writer, it's best to stay on the WGA's good side.

Here's what such a Title Page would look like:

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD UP

by

Jonathon Smith

revisions by

Peter Brown
Sylvia Johnston
Keaton McDonald

current revisions by

Alfred Strickland

Notice that the screenplay's original author remains at the top of the writer's list.

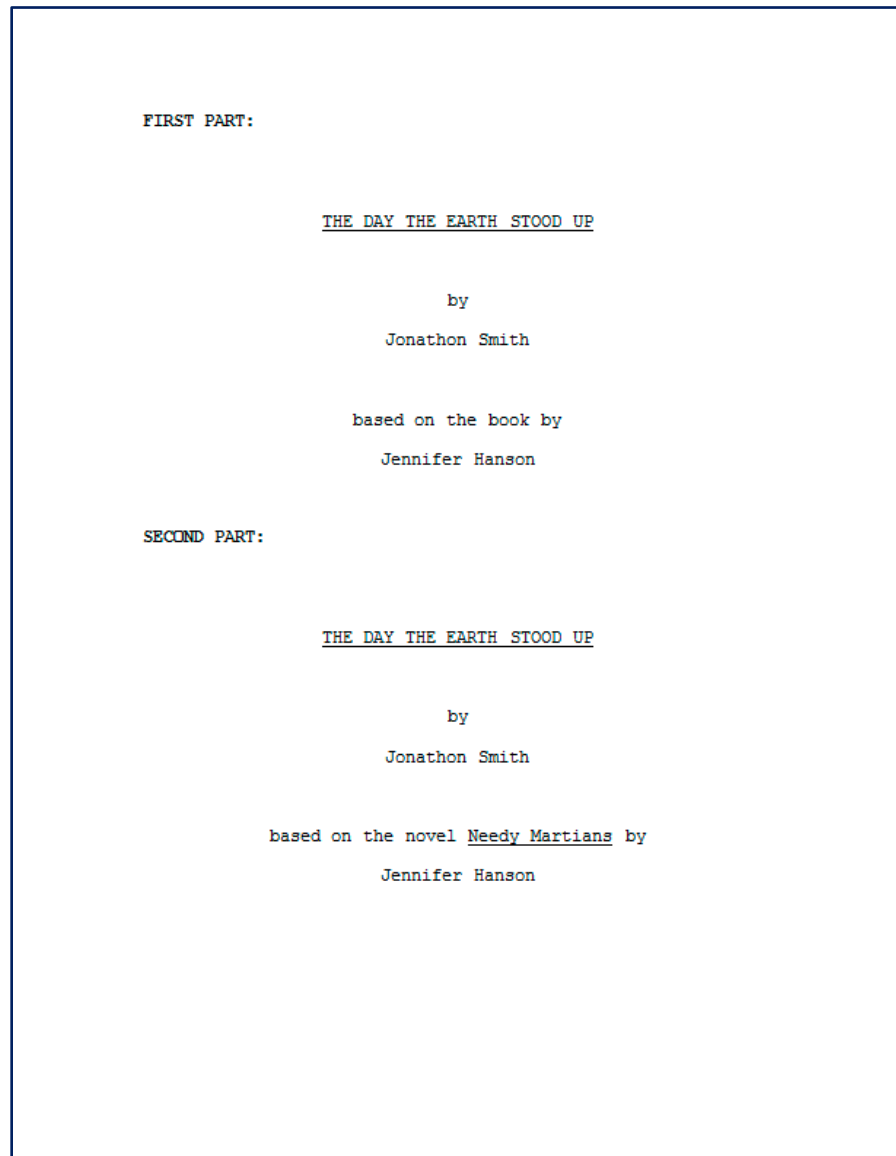
The "revisions by" is located four spaces below the original author in lower-case. Double-spaced below that is a list of the authors. The list of writers is single-spaced. Notice the names are NOT separated by "and" or "&".

Skip another two lines for the words "current revisions by", again in all lower-case. Double-space again for the name of the current revisionist.

III. Script Adapted from Another Work

Sometimes rather than writing an original screenplay, a writer will adapt a previously produced work into screenplay form. A screenplay of this type must incorporate credit to the original author into its Title Page.

Here's are two examples of what it could look like:



When the screenplay and the original work share the same title, it must be displayed as shown under "FIRST PART", with “based on the book by” four spaces below the screenplay writer in lower-case letters. The author of the book is then double-spaced below.

If the screenplay and original work have different titles, make sure both titles are displayed on the Title Page, as shown in the example under "SECOND PART". Again, the “based on...” section is four spaces below the screenplay writer, but this time everything is lower-case EXCEPT the title of the novel, which is continuously underlined and uses standard capitalization rules. The author name, again, is double-spaced underneath.

A good rule of thumb is to never write a screenplay based on a previous work unless the original author has bestowed permission for you to do so. And NEVER send a spec script to production companies

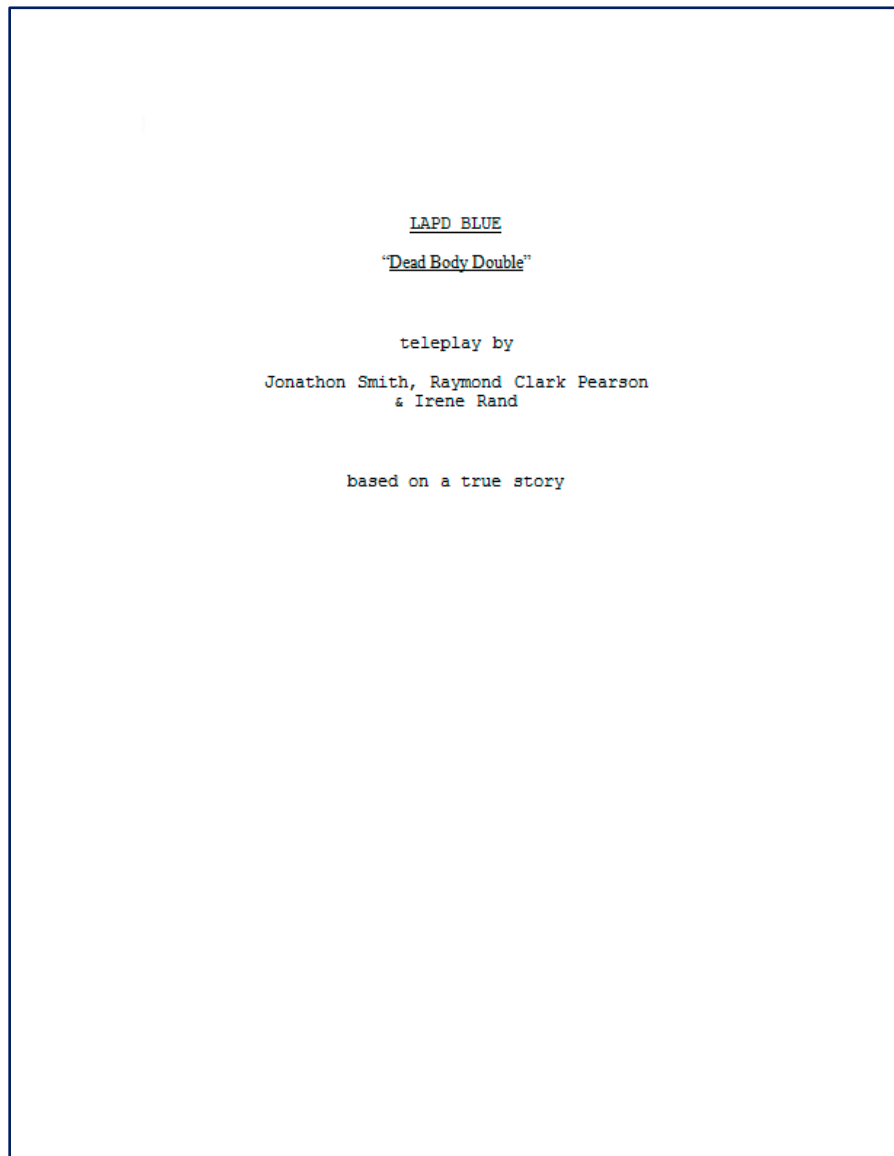
without such consent. It would be most embarrassing if a company wanted to buy a screenplay you never even had authorization to write!

Also DON'T write a screenplay based on your OWN unpublished work. VERY unprofessional. Just consider it an original screenplay and move on.

Screenplays can be adapted or inspired from just about anything. Adjust accordingly. A script adapted from a short story of a different title, for example, would follow the same rules as above, except the short story title would be in quotation marks rather than underlined.

IV. Teleplays and Other Scenarios

Below are a few more tribulations writers often face when writing their title page, such as creating a Title Page for a Teleplay:



If you write a teleplay for a TV series, you must not only display the title of the series, but also the title of the episode. The spacing from the top of the page is the same, the series title is still ALL CAPS and underscoring is, again, optional. Double-space for the episode title, but this time instead of ALL CAPS, follow general MLA capitalization rules for titles. Put the episode title in quotations, and if you choose to underscore the episode title, DO NOT put an underline beneath the quotation marks.

If a screenplay or teleplay has multiple original writers, the By-line will, again, be four spaces below the title in lower-case, but if it is a teleplay, say so as shown. The writers' names are, again, double-spaced below. This time, separate the names with commas and the last name in the list with an ampersand. If all the names will fit on one line, do so. But if not, place remaining names one line below.

Whether the screenplay is "based on" or "inspired by" a true story or actual events, the rules are the same. Place the line four spaces below the name of the writer(s) in lower-case letters.