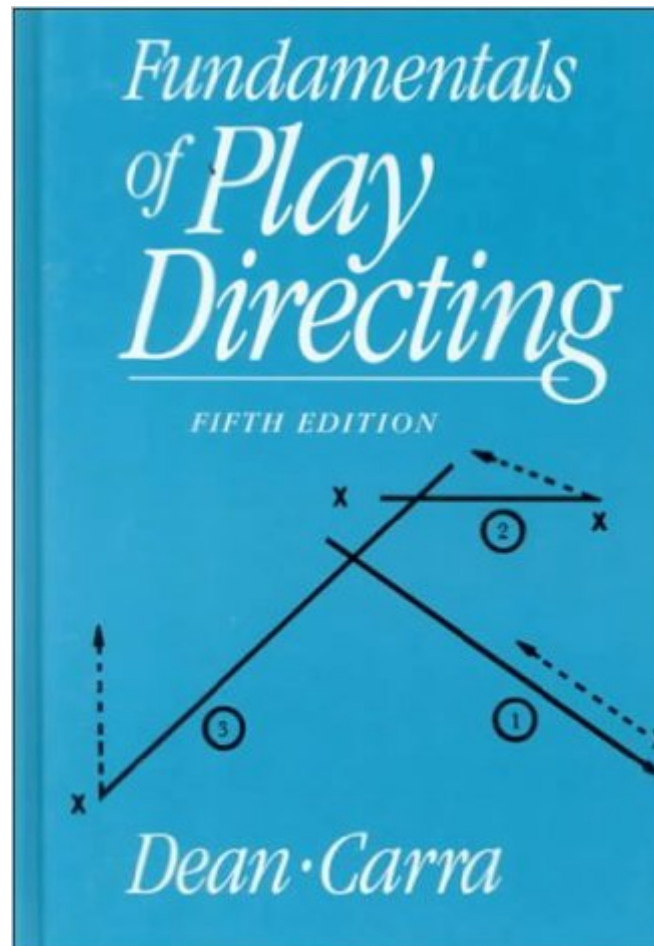


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# Fundamentals Of Play Directing



## Synopsis

This thorough, detailed introduction to modern stage directing focuses on fundamentals, with an emphasis on the director's interaction with actors. The material is organized in a clear, step-by-step teaching format, from explanations to demonstrations and exercises.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Dean and Carra's FUNDAMENTALS OF PLAY DIRECTING is a step-by-step manual which deciphers the major technical and visual issues of stage directing. It includes specific "tricks of the trade" which remind all directors, beginning or advanced, of the mechanics of stage work. While the authors discuss dramatic theory, the book corrects examines technique, addressing the key concepts of stage focus, framing, stage pictures, and the creation of dynamism on the stage. It allows current students of directing to understand the "fundamentals" first in order to create new and exciting works later. Though expensive, it is the definitive text for directing students.

FUNDAMENTALS OF PLAY DIRECTING is an important investment in a young director's theatrical future.

Arguably the most significant text on directing for the stage, originally published after Alexander Dean's death (1893-1939) in 1941 from his posthumous class notes and revised several times. Alexander Dean was a professor at Yale in the 1930s. Lawrence Carra, now in his 90s, was his student and then went on to head the Drama Department at Carnegie Mellon University, the oldest

degree-conferring school of theatre in the United States. This book has influenced generations of stage directors and is considered by many the most influential book of its kind. It is both theoretical and practical. Although the prose style is somewhat dry, the content and information is invaluable. The book presents five basic "fundamentals" of directing: composition, picturization, movement, rhythm and pantomimic dramatization. Carra's follow-up book, *Controls in Stage Directing*, although out of print, is a worthy companion which explains how the five fundamentals may be applied to plays of various genres and styles. The book presents a true method of how to approach the staging of plays. It is not just an outline of basic principles but also gives insight into the art of directing. The basic principles provide working techniques for the realization of the values of a play onstage. The book begins with an excellent essay on "Drama as Art," continues with a chapter on basic technique for the actor and then the heart and soul of the book are the five major chapters covering the basic fundamentals of directing. It ends with a chapter on Production Procedures. An excellent and important book. I am biased, however, as I was a student of Professor Carra.

This is a great and enduring work on the art of directing. Don't let its age fool you. The fundamentals discussed here are crucial and all too often neglected. If you want to learn how to direct for the stage, or appreciate what a director does (or what bad directors fail to do), this book is simply invaluable.

This, no doubt, is one of the very best books on play directing. I used it as a college student many years ago, and have updated the printings through the years. You will refer to it, again, and again!

I was upset the book I received wasn't the one on the photo to the left of this comment, but the book has hidden markings in it from a past owner that have enlightened me on other books I now will be purchasing. Thank you!

Very thorough, like most play directing books it attempts to make art understandable, which I do not believe is ever completely possible. It takes you through all the fundamental parts of play directing that you need to consider, however. It is a very useful text.

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