



The Craft of Comedy

Athene Seyler, Stephen Haggard

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"a work on the art and craft of comedy as important in its own way as works by Stanislavski and Chekhov" – *Oxford Theatre Companion*

In 1939, a young, inexperienced actor wrote to a famous actress of his acquaintance, asking for advice on playing comedy. She responded enthusiastically, and they corresponded variously over the next year. *The Craft of Comedy*, a record of these exchanges, soon emerged as one of the few classic texts in the field of comedy acting.

This major new edition takes a brilliant book and makes it better. Editor Robert Barton has devised extensive supplementary material, including:

- An introduction to the correspondents, the culture of the time, and the evolution of their book;
- Summaries, definitions, and exercises and practice scenes for readers wishing to explore Athene Seyler's invaluable advice;
- Photographs, additional essays by Seyler, and a guide to easily accessed video clips of her performing.

Seyler's lucid guidance, and Barton's scrupulous editorship, ensure this legendary work's rightful status is restored: as one of the great practical guides to the craft of comedy, and an essential resource for actors and students of acting.

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