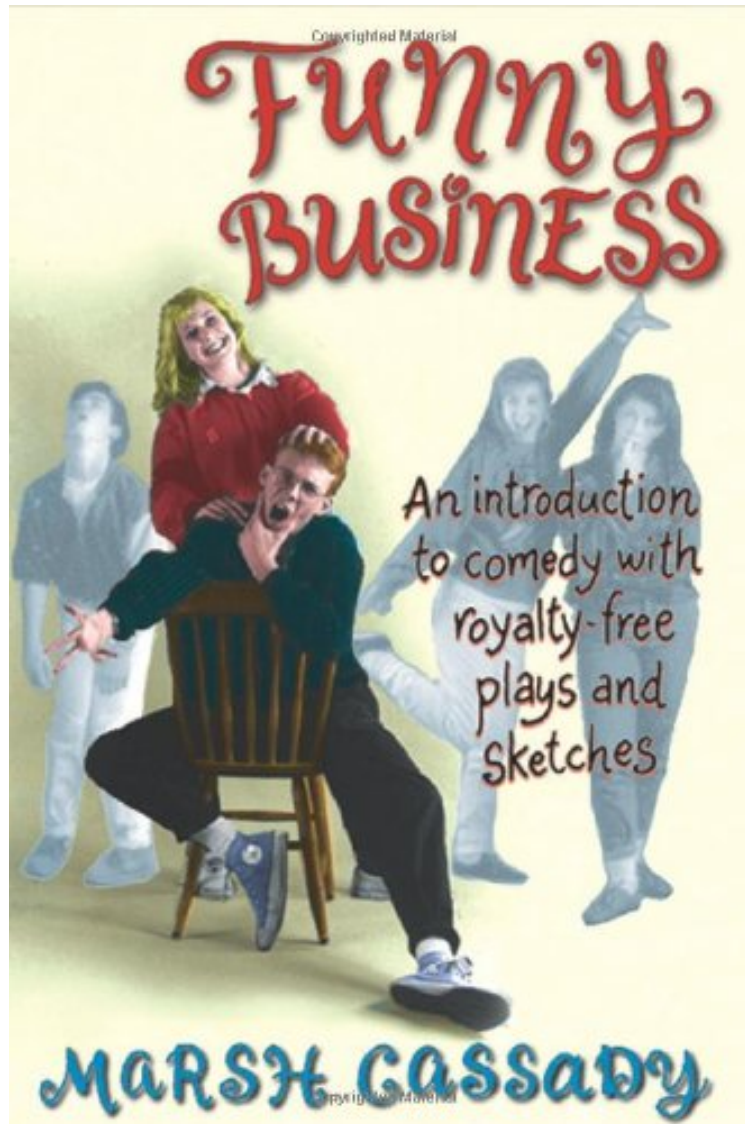


## Funny Business: An Introduction to Comedy With Royalty-Free Plays and Sketches

Marsh Cassady

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**Marsh Cassady : Funny Business: An Introduction to Comedy With Royalty-Free Plays and Sketches** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Funny Business: An Introduction to Comedy With Royalty-Free Plays and Sketches:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. NOT Funny - and only for TeensBy TallyHoAlthough the basic tenants of comedy are presented here, the sketches that are used as illustrations are: (a) not funny and (b) useful for

teens or younger only. This book seems geared to for middle school teaching usage when there's not much other material around. I put together sketches each year for a community variety show and was looking for some new inspiration. Hopefully, I thought, this book could give some "Second City" types of baselines. This book definitely did NOT come even close. Additionally, the AMAZON write-up did not properly identify that the book is geared to young themes and interests, ignoring older funny-bones. 13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent reference book

By Ellen B. Snortland Marsh Cassady has really nailed all of the forms of comedy in a concise, fun and easy to read way. It's difficult to explain comedy without making it unfunny. Cassady successfully engages the reader with scenes that illustrate how irony, incongruity, absurdity, and other classic methods of tickling our funny bones, work. I originally thought that Funny Business would be a good gift for a graduating senior but soon wanted it for my own reference. I highly recommend Funny Business.

For big laughs, comedy relies on exaggeration, incongruity, automatism, character inconsistency, surprise and derision. Now a book that defines and demonstrates each of these devices with twenty-two short sketches and one-act plays. This unique overview of high and low comedy defines all comedy genres: absurdism, tragicomedy, farce and melodrama. Following each sketch or play are notes reviewing what must be considered for acting the roles and preparing the total production. The book explains why references to events, places and people, both past and present are so important to each play or sketch. The reader will find many insights along the way about how to write and perform each comedy style successfully. The wide variety of scripted comedy material in this book makes it ideal for those who are teaching, practicing their acting, or rehearsing for actual performances. All characterizations are appropriate for student actors in their teens or twenties. Another fine, unique text from Marsh Cassady, this is a wonderful resource for all theatrical libraries.

About the Author Marsh Cassady has written more than forty books including novels, short story and drama collections, haiku, biography, and books on theatre and storytelling. His audio and stage plays have been widely performed (including off-Broadway), and he has written and recorded a three-set audio tape on storytelling. A former actor/director and university professor with a Ph.D. degree in theatre, Cassady has worked with more than a hundred productions. Since 1981, he has conducted an all-genre writing workshop in San Diego and has taught various creative writing classes at UCSD and elsewhere. While teaching at Montclair State in the 1970s, he started a program of workshops, classes and special projects in playwriting. His own writing has won numerous regional and national awards.