



# SCREENPLAY LAYOUT

Screenplays are standardized forms of writing. Using commercial screenwriting software like Movie Magic or Final Draft can help properly structure the script and make the writing process swift and easy.

**Layout:** For US-based screenwriting, courier is the industry standard font style and the font size should be no less than 12 point. Cheated margins are obvious. Brass brads are the binding of choice. Conformity rules when it comes to how your script looks.

**Page Count** - If your script exceeds 150 pages, think about paring it down – 120 is the average length. For comedy and horror, page count usually hovers around 100.

**Other:** Miscellaneous items (ie, artwork, tapes, CDs, etc.) that are sometimes included to "accompany" the reader while reading the script are never looked at or listened to. Send only the script or manuscript. Save your money for more copies.

**View Sample On Next Page:**

INT. FREUD PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE -- CONTINUOUS

Doc sits across from half a dozen MENTAL PATIENTS. They fill a semi-circle row of chairs.

DANIEL (60), a tall, thin man with big eyes, wears a blanket around his shoulders and a napkin holder on his head. He regally paces in front of the group.

DOC  
And what's it like to rule the kingdom?

DANIEL  
Very majestic. I have everything I want - women, money, power.

DOC  
And how does that make you feel?

DANIEL  
Wonderful. Except one thing.

DOC  
What's that?

DANIEL  
I know I'm not really a King.

Doc's eyes light up.

DOC  
Good, Daniel. What are you?

DANIEL  
A can opener.

Doc's head drops as Daniel begins imitating a can opener.

CURTIS (35), another patient wearing his robe backwards, raises his hand.

DOC  
Yes, Curtis?

CURTIS  
Did you hear the one about the no-handed baseball player?

Doc shakes his head.

CURTIS (CONT'D)  
He was a wrongie.

Everyone laughs except Doc.

(CONTINUED)