



# Hollywood Chemistry: When Science Met Entertainment (ACS Symposium Series)

*Sidney Perkowitz*

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Hollywood and science have found each other, and seem to have formed the strongest bond to date. The increasing use of science consultants in science fiction and science-themed productions, from comedies like *The Big Bang Theory* to dramas like *Breaking Bad*, as well as the creation of the Science and Entertainment Exchange by the National Academy of Sciences, suggests a new level of Interaction between science and entertainment media that will surely benefit both sides.

What finally catalyzed this reaction? This eclectic collection of essays examines the connections between Hollywood and science, with a primary focus on the current state of the relationship. It features contributions from screenwriters, producers, directors, scientists, science advisors, science writers, even a music composer and a dramaturge. The formats of the chapters contained herein are equally eclectic: some take the form of academic journal articles, some are written as less formal interviews, and some are narratives. The tones of the offerings range from the purely serious to the comedic.

The first half of the book focuses on the various approaches that different television series and movies employ to incorporate accurate science into their productions. In other instances, authors explore the more fundamental aspects of science-like sound, music, and light-that enable audiences to appreciate television and film. The second half of the volume explores the effects that television and film have on the viewing public. Some authors explain the science, both explicit and implied, that can be found within various Hollywood productions, and explore instances where Hollywood and science failed to click, instead of meshing. Other authors examine the influence that Hollywood science has on the science community, public policy, and the legal system. Still others describe pedagogical applications of television and movie science to education-as well as Hollywood's role in motivating future generations of scientists and engineers.

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