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# Foreign Dialects: A Manual for Actors, Directors, and Writers

*Lewis Herman, Marquerite Shalett Herman*

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## Foreign Dialects

### A Manual for Actors, Directors, and Writers



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**Lewis Herman, Marquerite Shalett Herman : Foreign Dialects: A Manual for Actors, Directors, and Writers** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Foreign Dialects: A Manual for Actors, Directors, and Writers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great addition to any actor's collection By ActingtheatrecaI originally got a copy of this book from the library longer ago than I care to remember. It's an incredible instruction manual for performing realistic accents. This book has illustrations on how to position your mouth and tongue when speaking, phonetically spells out the words, provides a stanza of music notes to show you tonal where the dialect falls, and gives you a few words in the appropriate dialect to add flavor to your dialog. Every chapter also has a monologue in the appropriate dialect spelled out phonetically to help you practice your accent. I especially appreciate how they

differentiate between an authentic accent and what would be an over-the-top accent. I have used this book for many years and have also loaned it to friends who have also found it invaluable. I was thrilled to find it back in print (when I originally found it in the library, it had been out of print for many years) and highly, highly recommend it as an actor and a director. There is also a book on American Accents that is equally wonderful. I believe these should be a "must" for any actor/director collection. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Stage Reference By Sea Dragon I was given a copy of this book 30+ years ago. Over the course of many moves I lost it. I was told it was out of print. Finding it has "made my day". This is a challenging book, and successful use will require lots of study to understand and use all of its resources, but if you do the work, the results will be outstanding. The author uses a musical scale to demonstrate the flow of a language. However you don't have to read music to follow the ups and downs of tone, and the spaces for pauses. A little common sense will carry you through. I would recommend this to anyone who is serious about accurate dialects on stage (or those who just like to try dialects if they are willing to work). 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. VER Y good book By Matthew A. Givens I bought this book to help me build and polish a cockney accent for my first acting role as an adult. I was cast as Alfred Doolittle in a local dinner theatre's production of My Fair Lady. My accent got the most favorable comments from the audience and fellow actors alike, many of whom asked me for pointers on pronunciation. This book is great, and speaking cockney has become so easy and natural to me that I find myself slipping into it without realizing it immediately. The pronunciation tips and examples were excellent. I cannot praise this book enough.

Most actors and directors have struggled with the problem of needing to imitate foreign dialects. Marguerite and Lewis Herman have created an essential tool for actors, directors and writers aiming toward the most authentic performances possible. Foreign Dialects contains an extensive repertoire of dialects that will assist the actor in the preparation for the most difficult foreign roles. Now in paperback, this classic text offers the director or producer a quick, convenient aid for correcting actors and evaluating applicants for authenticity and dialect ability. In addition, it guides those writing fiction as well as radio, movie, and television scripts. Thirty foreign dialects are provided, with character studies, speech peculiarities, and examples of the dialects in easy-to-read phonetic monologues--including Cockney, British, Irish, Scottish, French, German, Spanish, Swedish, Polish, Greek and Yiddish.

About the Author Lewis Herman and Marguerite Shalett Herman compiled this material during more than 25 years of acting, writing, teaching, and study, in Europe, Hollywood, Chicago, and New York. They also acted and directed for stage, television, radio, and motion pictures.