



# Nelson Gidding

**Nelson Roosevelt Gidding** (September 15, 1919 – May 2, 2004) was an American screenwriter specializing in film adaptation.<sup>[1]</sup> A longtime collaboration with director Robert Wise began with Gidding's screenplay for *I Want to Live!* (1958), which earned him an Oscar nomination. His long-running course on screenwriting adaptations at the University of Southern California inspired screenwriters of the present generation, including David S. Goyer.

	<b>Nelson Gidding</b>
<b>Born</b>	<div>Nelson Roosevelt Gidding</div> September 15, 1919 <div>New York City, U.S.</div>
<b>Died</b>	<div>May 2, 2004 (aged 84)</div> Santa Monica, California
<b>Occupation</b>	Screenwriter

Gidding was born in New York City and attended school at Phillips Exeter Academy; as a young man he was friends with Norman Mailer. After graduating from Harvard University, he entered the Army Air Forces during World War II as the navigator on a B-26. His plane was shot down over Italy, but he survived; he spent 18 months as a POW but effected an escape. Returning from the war, in 1946 he published his only novel, *End Over End*, begun while captive in a German prison camp.

In 1949, Gidding married Hildegarde Colligan; together they had a son, Joshua Gidding, who today is a Seattle writer and college professor.

In Hollywood, Gidding entered work in television, writing for such series as *Suspense* and *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon*, and eventually moved into feature films like *The Helen Morgan Story* (1957), *Odds Against Tomorrow* (1959), *The Haunting* (1963), *Lost Command* (1966), *The Andromeda Strain* (1971), and *The Hindenburg* (1975).

After the death of his first wife on June 13, 1995, in 1998 Gidding married Chun-Ling Wang, a Chinese immigrant.

Gidding taught at USC until his death from congestive heart failure at a Santa Monica hospital in 2004.

## Filmography

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### Film

Year	Title	Notes
1953	<i>The Triangle</i>	Segment "American Duel"
1957	<i>The Helen Morgan Story</i>	
1958	<i>Onionhead</i>	
	<i>I Want to Live!</i>	
1959	<i>Odds Against Tomorrow</i>	
1962	<i>Lisa</i>	
1963	<i>The Haunting</i>	
	<i>Nine Hours to Rama</i>	
1966	<i>Lost Command</i>	
1970	<i>Skullduggery</i>	
1971	<i>The Andromeda Strain</i>	
1975	<i>The Hindenburg</i>	
1979	<i>Beyond the Poseidon Adventure</i>	
1987	<i>The Misfit Brigade</i>	
1991	<i>Journey of Honor</i>	
1993	<i>The Mummy lives</i>	

## Television

Year	Title	Notes
1952	<i>Hallmark Hall of Fame</i>	1 Episode
	<i>Hollywood Opening Night</i>	1 Episode
1953	<i>Rheingold Theater</i>	1 Episode
	<i>The Web</i>	1 Episode
1954	<i>The Stranger</i>	2 Episodes
	<i>Inner Sanctum</i>	3 Episodes
	<i>President for a Day</i>	TV movie produced as an episode of <i>Hallmark Hall of Fame</i>
1954-55	<i>The Man Behind the Badge</i>	12 Episodes
1955	<i>Kraft Television Theatre</i>	1 Episode
	<i>Warner Bros. Presents</i>	1 Episode
1955-56	<i>Casablanca</i>	5 Episodes
1955-57	<i>Sergeant Preston of the Yukon</i>	52 Episodes; Also story editor
1956	<i>Playwrights '56</i>	1 Episode
1957	<i>Schlitz Playhouse of Stars</i>	2 Episodes
1960	<i>Bourbon Street Beat</i>	1 Episode

1972	<i>Banyon</i>	1 Episode
1983	<i>Casablanca</i>	1 Episode
	<i>I Want to Live</i>	TV movie

## Bibliography

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- *End Over End*. Viking. 1946. OCLC 1804517 (<https://search.worldcat.org/oclc/1804517>).

## References

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1. Wolfgang Saxon (14 May 2004). "Nelson Gidding, 84, Screenwriter Of Classics Like 'I Want to Live!'" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/14/arts/nelson-gidding-84-screenwriter-of-classics-like-i-want-to-live.html>). *The New York Times*. p. C 11. Retrieved 22 August 2021.
- McLellan, Dennis (May 7, 2004). "Nelson Gidding, 84; Oscar Nominee Wrote for Radio, TV, Movies" (<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2004-may-07-me-gidding7-story.html>). *The Los Angeles Times*.
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## External links

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- [Nelson Gidding \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0317254/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0317254/) at IMDb
- [Gidding documents from World War II \(http://www.merkki.com/gidding\\_nelson.htm\)](http://www.merkki.com/gidding_nelson.htm)

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