

OSO Writers' Studio - Participants' Handbook

Overview

Can you tell us a story in ten minutes?

In our next OSO Writers Studio, you'll have ten weeks to write a ten minute play on the theme of 'conflicts.'

Developing your script through feedback from other playwrights, each session will focus on different elements of storytelling. What's more, you'll be able to talk extensively with the actors and directors assigned to your pieces in week 1, aimed to build writing skills to work on their individual strengths as performers, before building to a final showcase performance to be staged in our professional venue.

Writers of all levels welcome.

Course Fee

£150 | £135 for OSO Members*

To secure your place on the course, please transfer the course fee to the OSO Arts Centre account: Name: Barnes Community Arts Centre | Sort Code: 60-01-39 | Account Number: 47101180 | Please include 'Writers Studio' as the reference.

*OSO annual membership is £60 (free to 16-26 yr olds), and gives you access to advanced booking at reduced ticket prices, free tickets to members' events and lots more. For more information:

<https://www.osoarts.org.uk/memberships>

To Apply

Please go to the OSO website: <https://www.osoarts.org.uk/osowritersscheme>

FAQs

Will I need to prepare anything in between sessions?

Yes, we will be asking you to bring in a couple of pages each week.

Will I have to read out my own writing?

The aim of this course is to develop your writing through feedback from others, and we therefore ask that participants share their work and are open to differing opinions! Our facilitator will always be happy to read out your work if you feel uncomfortable doing so.

Will my play definitely be performed if I'm accepted on the course?

Yes, providing that you attend at least five of the workshop sessions.

Will I receive tuition?

This course aims at collective development through feedback from other writers, so while we won't be telling you exactly how to write your scene, we will be facilitating the discussion.

I don't have any experience with writing plays. Can I still apply?

Absolutely. The purpose of the workshop is to give talented individuals the opportunity to develop their work and perform in a professional setting.

I am an experienced playwright. What would I get out of writing a scene?

There will be other experienced writers on the course who will offer a good forum to exchange ideas. You will also have the opportunity to bring your talent to the attention of the OSO theatre. Furthermore, communication and group work skills will be put into practice this season, due to having your actors and directors assigned before you write your play.

How involved do I have to be with the actors and the director?

Once your play is finished and in the hands of the director, it is encouraged that you take a step back and let them take over in bringing your piece to life.

Course Dates & Timetable

	Dates	Times	Session
Week 1	Sun 14 Jan	10am-12.30pm	Introductory Discussion & Actor meet and greet
Week 2	Sun 21 Jan	10am-12.30pm	Writing Workshop with Mark Hayden
Week 3	Sun 28 Jan	10am-12.30pm	Pages 1-2
Week 4	Sun 4 Feb	10am-12.30pm	Pages 3-4
Week 5	Sun 11 Feb	10am-12.30pm	Pages 5-6
Week 6	Sun 18 Feb	10am-12.30pm	Final Draft
Week 7	Sun 25 Feb	6.30pm-10.30pm	Rehearsal
Week 8	Sun 3 Mar	9.30am-3.30pm	Rehearsal
Week 9	Sun 10 Mar	5.30pm-10.30pm	Rehearsal
Week 10	Sun 17 Mar	11am-1pm Cue to Cue (Tech) 3.30-5.30pm Show case	Showcase

Script

Presentation of script: Single line indents

Font size and style: Courier New, font size 12.

In the One Drive, there is an example of a short script written in this format, which you will be able to reference at any time going forward with the course.

Stage directions Should communicate essential information, e.g. *Ellie writes a note*, rather than dictating how the script should be performed e.g. *Ellie moves upstage centre*. It is the director's job to decide where the actors go!

Props / set / costume Please ensure that your writing does not rely on large set items, an excessive number of props, or a very specific costume piece. The OSO does not have a props or costume store, or a budget for the purchase of these items, so all therefore must be sourced within your teams.

Lighting / sound Should not be relied on excessively. For the final showcase, each play will be permitted a maximum of 10 lighting & sound cues combined. Lighting states will be limited to a spotlight centre stage, a general warm and cold wash, and a black out. The sound files must be provided by your team. Projection will not be possible.

Fight / intimacy is not permitted, due to time constraints on dealing with material of this nature sensitively.

Showcase

The showcase will be performed in week 10 in our theatre.

When you hand your work over to the director in week 7, **you will be required to take a step back**. If you wish to be in the rehearsals, you are there to observe, and if called upon by the director, clarify. You should never dictate their interpretation!

The Showcase performance will be programmed and operated by the OSO's Technical Manager. If the director wants lighting states to change throughout the play a cue sheet will have to be provided with an annotated technical script. No lights will be able to be specifically focused for the performance.

Actors & Directors

The actors and directors are giving up their time to support your writing. Please treat them well, and place realistic expectations on the level of commitment they are able to give.

Actors and directors will only be required to attend the course in Weeks 1, 7, 8 & 9.

Week 7-9: Rehearsal - three rehearsals in the OSO. By this point, the script must be completed.

Week 10: the Showcase - Actors will be required to arrive at 3-5pm for a Tech Run. This will simply be a cue-to-cue: running the line before and after a lighting or sound cue to ensure that the operator (Marta) knows your timings. As the showcase will take place in Studios 1-3, there will be no dressing room available. Actors will therefore be required to turn up in costume. Full teams must be in the theatre from 5pm, so as to ensure there is space for the audience in the cafe/ bar.

Actors are encouraged to be off-book.

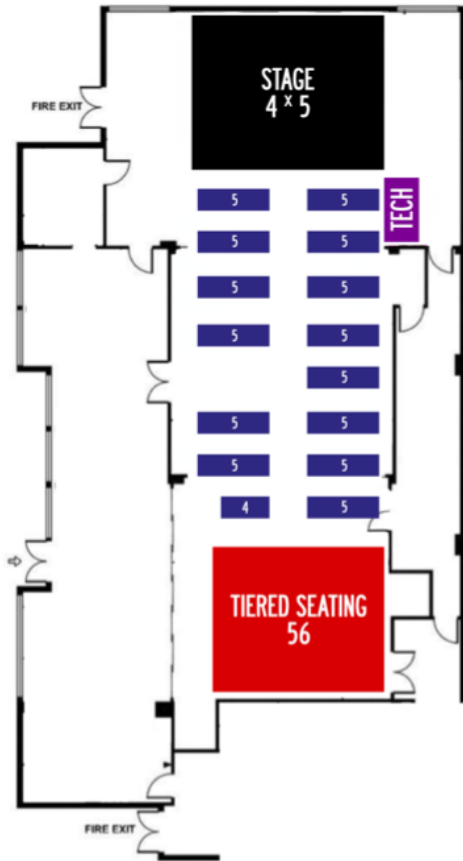
Actors will be given their roles by the facilitator, and will be given access to the script via a One Drive invite on their email (Note: This invite tends to be sorted automatically into spam or junk folders).

Auditorium Layout

Stage: 4m(d) x 5m(w) x 0.6m(h), 20 panels. Wingspace on both sides.

Audience Configuration: Tiered seating, plus rows of chairs.

Tech Desk: Downstage Left Wing. Capacity: 130.



Props tables and costume rails will be laid out in the wings. The course facilitator will ask you to provide a list of props/ costume changes in advance of the showcase, to ensure that there is adequate space.

Tickets for Showcase

Tickets will go on sale at the start of each season; it's recommended that you book tickets early as there will be limited capacity. Professional 'comps' may be available on request via info@osoarts.org.uk for agents, casting directors etc. The provision of these are at the discretion of the OSO.