

OSO Writers' Studio - Participants' Handbook

Overview

During this course, you'll write a ten minute, two-hander play on the theme of 'The Seven Sins'. Each week, you'll develop your script through feedback from other playwrights, as well as being called upon to provide constructive criticism for others. Your work will then be assigned actors and directors and you will build towards a final showcase performance, to be staged in our professional venue in front of a live audience.

Course Fee

£225 | £200 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 Sign-up

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 your scene for discussion.

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 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 and some of the sessions will involve writing activities aimed to hone and help your writing craft..

I don't have any experience with writing plays. Can I still sign-up?

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 us working towards one collective performance.

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

Once your scene 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	Mon 6 Jan	6.30-9pm	Concept discussion (including characters and plot)
Week 2	Mon 13 Jan	6.30-9pm	First instalment
Week 3	Mon 20 Jan	6.30-9pm	Second instalment
Week 4	Mon 27 Jan	6.30-9pm	Third instalment
Week 5	Mon 3 Feb	6.30-9pm	Fourth instalment
Week 6	Mon 10 Feb	6.30-9pm	Fifth instalment
Week 7	Mon 17 Feb	6.30-9pm	Sixth instalment
Week 8	Sun 24 Feb	6.30-9pm	Readthrough with Actors and Directors
Week 9	Sun 2 Mar/Mon 3 Mar	6.30-9pm/ 5-9pm	Rehearsal*
Week 10	Sun 10 Mar	5-9pm	Rehearsal
Week 11	Sun 17 Mar	5-9pm	Rehearsal
Week 12	Sun 23 Mar	11-1pm Cue to cue 3.30pm showcase	Showcase

* nb all pieces will be allocated four hours to rehearse only and you will not be required to attend from week 8 -11

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 scene 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.

Showcase

The showcase will be performed on Sunday 23 March in our theatre.

When you hand your work over to the director in week 8, 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 9-11.

Week 9-11: Rehearsal - rehearsals at the OSO.

Week 12 : the Showcase - Actors will be required to arrive at 11am-1pm 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 3pm, so as to ensure there is space for the audience in the cafe/ bar.

Actors are encouraged to be familiar with their lines, but not off-book

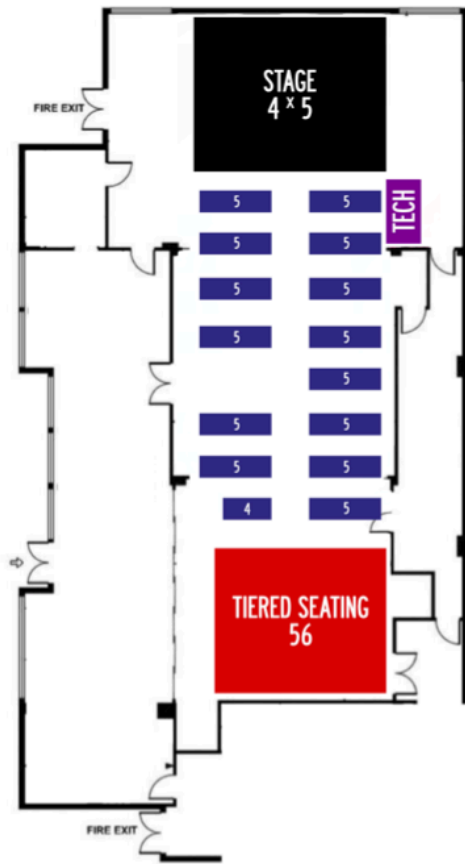
Actors will be given their roles by the facilitator, and will be given access to the script via a One Drive invite on their email (Note: This invite tends to be sorted automatically into spam or junk folders).

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.