

## DGAA Drama Writing Course

### Outline

Introduction – 5 modules, key Aristotle concepts, how drama differs from fiction, useful techniques.

1. STORY (incl conflict, narrative, plot)
  - ex – write action scene with book.
  - Why this works – conflict, wants, dynamics, character, suspense
  - drama vs other forms – drives forward, asides, exposition
  - Useful technique – add conflict: examine your characters' wants, strengthen their drives (conflict is a structural device)
2. TIME (incl viewpoint, structure, focus)
  - ex - write a scene with a time constraint
  - why this works – linearity, stage vs real time, pace, Aychbourn p 22, events seen at a distance
  - drama vs other forms – POV, closeup, flashback, crucible, film countdown timers
  - Useful technique – the passover question – why is the play happening now?
3. CHARACTER (incl beat, subtext, dialogue, action)
  - ex – write a scene with two very distinct characters, change the age and social background and see what happens
  - why this works – differentiation is dynamic, variety,
  - drama vs other forms – more similarities. Less direct knowledge of interior states
  - useful technique – limiting language, six-liner beats
4. SPECTACLE (location, theatricality, crucible, sensory, externalisation, imagination)
  - ex – write scene where location/set crucibles the action.
  - Why this works – setting has its own dynamics (friel play with dangling shards)
  - drama vs other forms – mood is heightened viscerally (music, sound)
  - useful technique – planting secrets to create tension, thinking visually
5. LANGUAGE (don't tell me how you feel, pace,
  - ex – limit each character to two word exchanges (said vs unsaid?)
  - why this works – the effect of pace, language as gesture (RESEARCH)
  - drama vs other forms – needs to be spoken, test it out, hear it as music
  - useful technique – reversal/peripeteia

### Epilogue -

- book recommendations – The Playwright's Guidebook, Playwriting in Process
- Sites – SPStudio, BBC Writers' room
- Film & radio – differences and resources (include in earlier sections?)
- Recommended texts for study?
- Steps on your own
- If you write fiction/poetry etc, if you're a theatre maker/performer