



PLAYWRIGHTS@PERIDOT

Michael Olsen presents a series of workshops for aspiring playwrights

Ever wanted to write a play but don't know where to start? Have a half-finished manuscript in the drawer? Want to hone your writing skills? Then PLAYWRIGHTS@PERIDOT might just be the opportunity for you!

Overview

Michael Olsen presents a series of workshops of approximately 60-90 minutes covering topics such as Character, Plot, Dialogue, Editing and getting your work on stage. Each workshop will involve a combination of writing exercises and group feedback, tailored to suit the needs of participants.

About Michael Olsen

Michael is a multi-award-winning playwright whose work has been performed both in Australia and overseas. He's had extensive experience offering his dramaturgical skills to many theatre companies and individuals.

Dates, times and venue

Where: Unicorn Theatre, Mount Waverley Secondary College, Lechte Road, Mount Waverley, 3149 .

Dates (all Tuesdays, 7.30pm): June 30, July 7, 14, 21, August 11, 25, Sept 8, 22.

Cost

The cost will depend on the number of participants (min 5, max 10) but will be approximately \$300, payable in advance.

To register your interest

Contact Alison at alisonperidot@gmail.com before May 31.

Workshop details

1. Introduction

- Outline of the course
- theatrical tools available to the writer
- Start thinking about your one-act play: an idea, image, character, argument

2. Character

- Essential aspect of characters (and your play): CONFLICT - Internal and External forces
- What do I need to know about my characters? - plus character proformas
- What an actor is looking for in a character - keeping this in mind when writing a character

3. Plot

- The heart of any story: why it started, what's in the character's way, and how things end
- Units of Action: what actually happens in the play - another approach to writing
- What will keep the audience interested in my play?

4. **Dialogue**

- Why it's different to how people speak in real life
- Subtext - the Iceberg analogy: what the playwright is *really* writing.
- The connection between dialogue and character.

5. **Getting started**

- Formatting - again!
- Writing the 1st draft: bypassing the Inner Critic

6. **Review**

- rewriting: now for the hard part
- instructions for cold reads and what you can get out of them

7. **Cold reads**

- cold reads of peoples' plays/scenes by the group as well as group discussion

9. **Actors, Directors & getting your work on**

- the playwright's vision: how to control it as best you can
- What actors and directors are seeking in your work.
- Giving up your work - and working with actors and directors
- Getting your work out there: where to go to from here

Opportunities at Peridot

Peridot Theatre actively supports local playwrights. Consequently we offer participants in Playwrights@ Peridot a number of possible opportunities.

- Attending the Monash One Act Play Festival (Oct 2-4), hosted by Peridot. An opportunity to watch a large number of one act plays, many by local authors.
- Suitable plays could be included in our regular Play Reading program
- Our One Act Play season often includes plays by local authors. Might yours be one of them?