

Give Your Story a Stage!
Workshop by Gary Corbin
Willamette Writers Conference, 2015

Resources

Playwriting Groups

- Script Frenzy
 - Annual script-writing “festival” (April)
 - Guides, resources, help, support
 - <http://www.scriptfrenzy.org/>
- PDX Playwrights (www.pdxplaywrights.org)
- PDXBackstage@yahoo.com and PDXOnstage@yahoo.com (Yahoo! Groups)

Competitions and Festivals

- JAW: A Playwrights Festival (Portland Center Stage)
 - <http://www.pcs.org/jaw/>
- Fertile Ground Festival of New Works
 - <http://www.fertilegroundpdx.org/>
- Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival
 - <http://oob.samuelfrench.com/>
- American Association of Community Theater
 - <http://www.aact.org/>
- PlaywritingOpportunities.com

Tools

- Celtx – free “basic” version, \$10 “Standard,” or \$20 “Premium” (<http://celtx.com/>)
- Final Draft - \$170 at [writersstore.com](http://www.writersstore.com) (or see <http://www.finaldraft.com/>)
- Word – Styles
 - ScriptSmartGold – free Microsoft Word templates
- Pages – Built-in Templates
- BBC Writers Room – Online assistance including Five Sprockets development system

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Exercise #1:

On the reverse side of this sheet, rewrite the following brief scenelet using only dialog. (See format below)

Setting: You choose. CHAD and BRENDA stand back-to-back, about 2 feet apart.

BRENDA crosses her arms and stares off into the distance, away from CHAD.

CHAD thrusts his hands into his pockets, bites his lower lip and looks at the ground in front of his feet. CHAD glances up at BRENDA, looks away, crosses his arms, sighs, and drops his arms to his sides.

BRENDA rolls her eyes and takes a step away from CHAD.

CHAD turns toward her, clears his throat.

BRENDA takes a long step away and turns her gaze upstage.

CHAD toes the ground.

BRENDA sneaks a peak at him. CHAD brightens for a moment; BRENDA looks away. CHAD holds his hands out wide, palms-up, elbows bent.

BRENDA sneers at him, walks toward him, then past, all the way across the room.

CHAD balls his fists and exits quickly.

Sample Format:

AT RISE: HOTEL LOBBY, evening. BRENDA and CHAD stand back-to-back.

BRENDA:
Just... leave.

CHAD:
I... I'm sorry.

...

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Exercise #2:

On the reverse side of this sheet, rewrite the following brief scenelet in play format using all action – NO dialog. (See format below)

BRENDA

I'm leaving now. I hope you're satisfied.

CHAD

How could a man ever be satisfied by anything you do?

BRENDA

You're so... so mean!

CHAD

Well, you're the expert on that.

BRENDA

I've never done a single thing to hurt you.

CHAD

Physically? True. But every word you've said for the past year has cut me like a scalpel.

BRENDA

I regret every moment of silence.

CHAD

Do you really?

BRENDA

... No. ... How did we get to this point?

I used to love you so much...

CHAD

Used to?

BRENDA

... Yes. ... Used to. Good-bye, Chad.

Sample Format:

AT RISE: BEDROOM, evening. BRENDA and CHAD stand about ten feet apart, arms crossed.

BRENDA crosses stage to door.

*CHAD hits the wall with his open palm.
BRENDA stops, faces him.*

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