



# 8 Week Play Syllabus

With Tara Sissom

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Objective

To create something where there was nothing.

### Goal

To devise a one act play as a class, and perform a world premiere, staged reading for an invited audience on the 8th week.

### Who?

If you're an actor, improviser, dramaturg, director or writer you can contribute to this project.

### How?

We will begin with stories. Our own stories. We will pick one for inspiration. We will create a treatment for our play and create our characters, we will cast our characters

within the class and begin to improvise the scenarios laid out in our treatment. We will write a rough draft and read aloud. We will make edits and improvise again. We will rehearse on its feet (naturally and without blocking) once our 2nd draft is complete. We will make final edits, rehearse a 3rd draft for our final staged reading and perform our world premiere play.

### Consider the following:

- The outcome of this class is entirely dependent on who signs up, the play we write will be entirely of our own choosing.
- This class will need lots of actors, and lots of writers, or actor/writers!
- You need some general knowledge of theatre or performing experience to participate in this class, any student who has completed any other B Street conservatory class is welcome.
- All students will be contacted before enrollment is finalized to make sure they are appropriate candidates.
- At the end of the class, all contributors will be listed and the final piece will be protected in all contributors names.
- Every session of the 8 week play project will have a completely different final product and can be repeated at any time.
- You can invite friends and family to the final performance staged reading.
- This is a really cool class, that you won't get to do anywhere else.

# 8 WEEK BREAKDOWN

## Day 1

- Ice Breaker Games & Organizing into our Actor, Writer, Director/Dramaturg groups
- Go Over Syllabus and course expectations
- We build our timeline
- We share our stories
- BREAK
- We pick our story(s)/Vote
- HW: treatment "Wireframe Fairytale" & downloading **Celtx Free**

## Day 2

- Present HW
- Play "20 Bad Ideas in 10 Mins"
- Basic improv brush up for actors
- Writers and directors meet to work our treatment
- BREAK
- Character breakdown development per treatment w/ actor types available
- HW: Actor's write a backstory for your character ( Pronouns Only ); W/D write treatment models and scene breakdowns. Bring Cameras & Materials for recording next class.

## Day 3

- Today we break only as needed
- We finalize our treatment and W/D present while actors warm up with improv games
- Round 1: Improvise all scenes in treatment. Recorded and transcribed by writers.
- HW: Scenes divided among writers, First Draft.

## Day 4

- Today we break only as needed
- Read through Draft #1
- All take notes and share
- Improvise where needed
- HW: Writers adjust draft #2; Actors write monologues expanded from a moment in the first draft or an improvised scene; Directors final edits of treatment, characters, etc.

## Day 5

- Today we break only as needed
- Directors meet on treatment edits
- Actors read and share monologues
- Round 2 improvise scenes
- Read draft #2
- Notes and share
- HW: writers swap scenes write Draft #3

## Day 6

- Today we break only as needed
- Read Draft #3
- Directors work with actors and begin staging
- Writers meet and make final edits
- We discuss our tech needs, and select a SM if necessary
- HW: final edits in script if any, actors work on lines, although not necessary to be memorized for final performance.

## Day 7

- Today we break only as needed

- Directors run this class and work individual scenes as needed
- Notes for actors, tech if any needed run by SM
- Final Performance Dress Rehearsal

## Day 8

- Today we don't break cause that's live theatre baby!
- Final performance with our invited audience.