

"Storyteller Sessions"

Janelle Lawrence
janelleclawrence@gmail.com

Guest Teachers:
TBA

Monday & Thursday
11am - 12:30pm EST
Session 4: February 2nd - March 4th

"We cannot escape fear. We can only transform it into a companion that accompanies us on all our exciting adventures... Take a risk a day - one small or bold stroke that will make you feel great once you have done it." - Susan Jeffers

Overview

Course Description:

When is the first time you told a story? Was it by a campfire? Was it to get out of trouble? Did you love the craft of the spark of the idea, the throughline of the thesis, and the success of the resolution? In 'Storyteller Sessions' we will explore the different approaches and dissect the diverse practices of storytelling for Playwrights, Film Writers, and Musical Book Writers. Throughout this course, you can expect a thorough and cohesive guide through writing or editing a play, screenplay, or book (musical). You will receive a daily guide PDF for writing prompts, questions to ponder in your writing, and artists and pieces you should explore! You'll have the option to use your script or your choice of diverse scripts from contemporary and classical artists to develop, present, and explore! Topics in this course include: Script Formatting, Strengthening a Premise, Storytelling as A Ritual, and many more. Each class meets with the same people twice a week (all lectures and activities available online throughout) for 5 weeks culminating in an evening ZOOM Showcase. Each participant can sign up for a 1-hour consultation with Janelle Lawrence. Participants are encouraged to sign up for this course if they have little to advance play, screenplay, or book (musical) skills! Each participant is provided a PDF packet to view before the course to make sure they're up to speed with some of the language, techniques, and shows that will be referenced/mentioned/worked from. Sign up for this course to strengthen your writing and collaborative teams! (Discounts available for creative teams) Have more questions if this course is right for you? Email me!

Why This Course?:

- You can bring your play, screenplay, book (musical), or start working on the story you've been trying to tell
- You've studied playwriting, screenplay, or narrative writing, and are interested in furthering and diversifying your skills!
- You're working with (a) new collaborator(s) and want to explore an idea!
- You feel like you're a fast learner and you've got a desire to write!
- You're a dramaturg interested in learning some of the development layers of a play!
- You want access to extra activities and lessons on your own time to pace your process!

"Storyteller Sessions"

Lesson Overview:

Lesson One

- What is a Story
- What are Storytellers
- What different kinds of Stories are there?

Lesson Two

- The Heart/The Thesis/The Premise

Lesson Three

- Character

Lesson Four

- Conflict

Lesson Five

- Exposition - Experiments

Lesson Six

- Dialogue

Lesson Seven

- Play & Book - writing Specifics

Lesson Eight

- Screenplays and the Multiple Angles

Lesson Nine

- The Solo Show / with none or more characters

Lesson Ten

- Storytelling as a Ritual

Text & Reference Breakdown:

The Art of Dramatic Writing by Lajos Egri

The Power of One by Louis Catron

How to Write a Selling Screenplay by Christopher Keane

Writing The Broadway Musical by Aaron Frankel

Naked Playwriting: The Art, the Craft, and the Life Laid Bare

The Hero With A Thousand Faces by Joseph Campbell

Humana Festival 2008: The Complete Plays edited by Adrien-Alice Hansel & Amy Wegener

"Storyteller Sessions"

Recommended Pieces:

[Sisterhood in the Time of the Apocalypse by Kendra Augustin](#)

[Prisoner Tongues by Alisha Espinosa](#)

[Evolve by Alisha Espinosa](#)

[Faire by Annette Stockerman](#)

[Eastern Parkway by Janelle Lawrence](#)

[i could have had the earth by Dara Epstein](#)

[Bonesetter: a Tragislasher by Annette Stockerman](#)

[Silver Family by Sophia Heinecke](#)

[What Makes An American by Janelle Lawrence](#)

[Crooked Parts by Azure D. Osborne-Lee](#)

FAQ

Accessibility Statement

How many 1- hour consultations do I get per session?

You can schedule one consultation with me per session! The calendar will go out after the first session. These are TYPICALLY best used towards the end of the course, but time is limited!

Can I bring my own piece that I've already finished a full draft (or more) of?

Yes! This will feel like combing through your piece with a very fine toothed comb! Exercises are layered to include creating optional new material or developing/editing existing material!

Can I bring in just an idea or a few pages of a piece I've written?

Yes! You'll breeze through creating some key points and great foundational scenes/ideas/characters and more with the tools to then go back and further develop this into a first draft!

Do I have to bring in a piece I've written or an idea?

You don't have to! You can just treat the class like a skill building course by using another piece to observe.

What if I just want to treat the class like a skill boosting course?

You can do that! There is a list of optional pieces you can choose from by artists I know!

Is there homework separate from writing my own piece?

The homework will have a version that is for people working on an already drafted musical, developing/writing their musical, a musical idea, and as a solo exercise.