

Elstead Village Theatre

So, you want to be a Playwright?

A very relaxed workshop for anyone interested in writing or acting in an Amdram play. This is a first rung of the ladder experience, I know, I'm standing on it. Here's the plan:

Have a brief discussion on the following. I'll give you my thoughts too.

Why is it a good personal thing for you to write a play?

Do you have a story in mind?

Do you think you write well?

Would you want to act in it?

Who would want to watch it?

Hopefully you'll decide that it might be a good idea to have a stab at it, and the discussion on the points above may well give you some valid reasons why you should.

Now we'll read and look at one of my plays to see why I made the decisions I did. This play is a complex story for a short play; it could be improved in many areas.

Read 'Phoebe'

How and when to start the story. This story is one of babies swapped at birth, so why start how and when it does?

Who wants what in the play and why should or shouldn't they get it? This is fundamental in character writing, it gives the play a purpose.

Recognise the inciting incident, as it's called. Often known as the reason for the play. What is the most important point in the play for you?

How does the dialogue fit the various characters' past, mood and presence on stage?

Discuss the beginning, middle and end. Does a play need one of each?

Recognise a few changes in pace and their impact on the actors and the audience.

Does it finish at the right point in the story for you?

That's it folks. No pressure, no previous experience required, though experienced people are welcomed too of course.

I used to be a teacher of engineering. My first tested session was on lesson planning; I ran out of content thirty minutes before the end. So, we may cover all or just some of the above in the time we have, fingers crossed.

Please read 'Phoebe' before we meet, it'll help.

Many thanks and see you there! Alan.