

Centre for Continuing Education

STORY COACHING ONLINE

Introduction:

Welcome to Story Coaching online, a course designed for writers who are developing a film project for large or small screens.

The rationale for the course is that *story is central*, and whilst many courses are available to teach script structure and analysis, story as the most important first stage often receives less attention. To develop a story, and to prepare it for scripting, involves considerable work but when completed the result will be a story that is 'ready' and suitable for its chosen format.

Story Coaching is an intensive 10-week course where students will inter-act with the 'coach' in 7 clear steps of story development. These steps are designed to allow the story to grow naturally, with checks and balances at each stage which must be passed before moving forwards. In this way the story will be assembled but also be allowed a life of its own.

Each week will have set tasks for students to complete, with responses from the coach via email and phone. Face to face meetings can also be arranged in Sydney and Canberra using Continuing Education facilities.

Course content & schedule:

The Core Idea 2 weeks

This is the genesis of story, and students will be asked to explore the reasons why this idea might make a good story, what it will mean to audiences, and what message the story is sending to the wider world from the writer. Why is it important to share this story with others?

Logline and Synopsis 1 week

Students will progress to developing a synopsis of the story, which will establish its basic framework and at the centre of this process will be a logline, which expresses succinctly the essence of the story which will enable its further development;

Characters & Dialogue 2 weeks

To be able to write characters effectively is to know them deeply, and this step will enable students to design characters, to write their biography, and to explore the possible inter-action between characters including giving them a 'voice' by learning the difference between conversation and dialogue;

Time 1 week

The time-frame that a narrative covers is an important part of story structure, and this step will explore in depth what is the most appropriate for the telling of the story i.e. students will be encouraged to look for possibilities by 'playing' with time;

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Location 1 week

Location or setting is, like time, a question of being appropriate for the story and its intention; the principal question for writers is not where should the story be located, but, having found a location, ask: could my story happen here, and why?

Genre 1 week

Confirming genre, knowing and understanding the rules and conventions of particular genres, is the final building block in story development; this step will be a close examination of the relationship between the developed story and its genre which will enable its 'mechanism' to be accepted by audiences and potential producers.

Storyline and story arc 2 weeks

This step will be in 2 stages – the drawing of a complete story arc with a specific structure of Acts and Turning Points, and then the writing of a storyline based on that design. The intention of this step is to take the writer to the point where scripting can commence because the story is complete and fully realised.

Sign up <http://www.anu.edu.au/cce/cecourses/enrolment/form/cregist.php>

www.huntercordaiy.com for Course Teacher (Hunter Cordaiy) biography and Link to website to commence the course.

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