

Inside a Play *with* Roger Hall

Roger describes the day as –

The well-made play (and other unfashionable topics). A day of looking at some of the techniques that help in writing a play.

This course is intended mostly for those with some experience in writing plays. If you have taken one of my courses before, sorry but this will be much the same.

HOMEWORK

Write a prose description of three fathers (or mothers if you prefer). Clearly, since we have only one father, I want you to write two made-up fathers and your real one.

One page (two pages at most). The point of this is to see if the reader or listener can guess which is your real father.

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK: Three Little Pigs.

If you haven't written any drama or dialogue for a while, then I suggest you write a version of the three little pigs which must have Mother Pig, the three pigs and the Wolf.

Note: These versions of Three Little Pigs will not be read out in class, nor will I read them to make comments (i.e. you won't be getting any feedback from me). It's just a way of warming up for the day and it can be fun, and even instructive, to do.

(Nor am I willing to read any scripts, sorry.)

THE DAY'S PROGRAMME: The day will cover such topics as:

SESSION ONE 10 am to 11.55 am

dialogue, characterization, exposition, "do we care?", holding the audience's attention, number of characters, polarising the cast, etc etc

11.55 – 12.35 Lunch

SESSION TWO 12.35 to 2.30 Screening of the well-made play.

2.30 to 2.45. Tea break.

SESSION THREE 3 pm to 3.30 approx. A stop-start analysis to show how the playwright uses various techniques and how useful they can be.

FINAL SESSION 3.30 to 4 pm Your questions.

If ordering lunch from the Sausalito Cafe, please do so before 10 am.