

ALEX BROUN PLAYWRITING COURSE

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PLAY SPECIFIC CHARACTER QUESTIONS

Once you know who your characters are the next step is to find out more about how they feel about the situation they are in and the characters they come in contact with.

Play setting

Where is your character when the play takes place ?

How long have they been there ?

Where have they just been ? Where are they going to directly after ?

Other Characters

How does your character feel about the other characters in the play – do they like them, love them, hate them, loathe them ? (PLEASE NOTE: In your play try to bring characters together who feel intensely one way or another about each other.)

How long have the characters known each other ?

How often do they see the other characters ?

Have they met before ?

Is there any shared history that the characters have together (i.e, important moments that affected their lives that they experienced together) ?

Events of Play

How does your character feel about the events in the play ?

How do the events in the play effect them ?

What actions will they take in response to the events in the play ?

How did your character cause the events in the play to take place ?

How did they try to solve the problems of the situation in the play ?

Did they feel guilty if they negatively affected other characters in the play ?

Other ideas to get to know your character –

Write a scene

Just write a scene – that is not in the play – with your character in a normal everyday setting – at work talking to the boss, at a bus stop, on a date, in the pub. Get to know them from what they say. The scene doesn't have to be about anything – just let them talk.

What language does your character use ?

Are they well educated or not ? Do they use slang or proper language ? How diverse is their vocabulary ? Do they have any favourite words ?

Do they speak in complete sentences or disconnected phrases ? Speak like the character and then record it. Transcribe the words. Look at the patterns of their speech, the actual spoken words on paper.

REMEMBER YOUR CHARACTERS ARE DEFINED IN THE AUDIENCE'S MIND BY WHAT THEY SAY AND WHAT THEY DO.

SOMETIMES THE MOST INTERESTING FACTOR ABOUT A CHARACTER CAN BE HOW THESE TWO DIFFER.