

The Craft of Writing for Radio

Online Course

Key Facts:

Start: October 2009. 10 weeks commencing October: 5, 12, 19, 26. November: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. December 7

Fee: £90

Application process: Open

Course Code: X9418

Credits: 12 at Level 1 issued by the University of Sussex, Sussex Institute, Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)

Course Contact: Mark Bryant at New Writing South

Overview:

Radio drama provides perhaps the most intimate relationship a writer can have with their audience, and it has one of the largest budgets in that it can create anything that you can imagine. Nobody will say that they can't afford to build that set, or the lighting's not quite right. In radio you use more variety, more locations, more actions, more imagination and more originality.

This course offers opportunities to listen to radio plays and study radio scripts. Each week there'll be practical exercises for you to complete and share with your fellow students.

A key element of the course is the Forum. Here you will have a chance to talk to your fellow students and exchange comments and ideas. Writing can be a lonely business (so can studying) and this is a real resource to help you enjoy your work and learn from each other.

Course aims:

By the end of the course, successful students will have:

- A understanding of professional radio drama
- A proposal for a radio play
- The beginnings of a script

Be able to:

- To use and understand key radio writing terms and apply this knowledge

- To analyse radio plays in terms of character's voices, visual style, genre and structure.
- To understand the process of writing a radio play.
- To discuss and evaluate each other's work critically and constructively, problem solving and applying key terms.



Programme details:

The course consists of one module consisting of 10 lessons. Students must complete each lesson in order to move onto the next lesson. There is one week to complete each lesson. Students will have a total of 10 weeks to complete the course.

- Lesson 1: What is Radio Drama
- Lesson 2: The BBC
- Lesson 3: Openings
- Lesson 4: Narrators
- Lesson 5: Dialogue and your idea for a play
- Lesson 6: Sound and the Premise
- Lesson 7: The Mediatheque and your idea developed
- Lesson 8: Text and Production
- Lesson 9: Script diary and the opening pages
- Lesson 10: The Future

About the Tutor:

Award winning BBC writer, Stephen Wyatt writes for theatre, BBC radio, television and screen. His radio drama includes: FAIREST ISLE (Sony Award); PARTYANIMAL (Tinniswood Award); MEMORIALS TO THE MISSING (Tinniswood and Sony Awards). His many adaptations include: two series of SKETCHES BY BOZ for Radio 4 and one series of TALES BY THACKERAY, THE OLD WIVES' TALE, GILBERT WITHOUT SULLIVAN and VANITY FAIR. Stephen's television credits include DOCTOR WHO, CASUALTY, HOUSE OF ELLIOTT and CLAWS.

Who should do this course?

There are no formal entry qualifications to enroll for this course, all you need is enthusiasm, commitment, a high degree of motivation and a willingness to engage in discussion with others. However, to ensure you can participate fully in the course you must meet the following requirements for English language and computing skills.

- **English language requirements:** A good standard of written English is required. Applicants whose first language is not English should be aware that proof of their English language ability may be required.

New Writing South

9 Jew Street
Brighton BN1 1UT

Tel: 01273 735353
admin@newwritingsouth.com
www.newwritingsouth.com

- **Computing skills:** You must be familiar with the use of computers for purposes such as email and have regular access to the Internet. Whilst almost any computer access will do, we would recommend you upgrade to the latest version of your chosen browser for the best experience. On Windows, we recommend Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox 2. On a Mac, we recommend Safari 3 or Firefox 2. Students will also need to have PDF reading software installed (Adobe) and be able to listen to audio files (MP3).

We recommend that you have access to a printer.

If you have any technical queries in relation to the course, please contact New Writing South on 01273 735353.

Your online tutor:

As a student on this course, your tutor (Stephen Wyatt) will facilitate course discussion and guide your study. Your online tutor will be online every Tuesday throughout the course between 1.30pm & 2pm to answer questions, and will also visit the Forum every Tuesday to comment on your progress and deliver any important announcements.

What is an online course like?

When you have successfully enrolled, we recommend students take a few moments to look through the online platform. Think of the e-learning environment as a virtual classroom, especially the forum area. It's worthwhile remembering that the more you contribute to the forum discussion sessions, then it is more likely that you will get much more out of your online course experience as a whole. If you have any questions with the interface or need any guidance with how it works, Mark Bryant at New Writing South will be on hand to assist.

Course materials:

Excerpts supplied with the course and available as a download.



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