

# DRAMA PLAY

## GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

HOW TO CREATE SHORT AND EXCITING DRAMA PLAY OUT OF A GRANDMA'S STORY?



# DRAMA PLAY

## FROM IDEA TO PREMIERE

A play is the most prominent feature of dramatic education. Because of its character of dialog, it is a very appropriate way to encourage expressions of speech and creativity.

Do you want to create a play? Let's go! Let's learn some key words. What is your idea, what is the scenario, who is the author of the script and what do the actors do?

## IDEA

Every play begins with an idea. The idea is the main thought that triggers the whole process of playing the game. Sometimes a sentence is enough to trigger a play.

*„Once upon a time a young lady travelled the world!“*



# SYNOPSIS

Once you have determined the basic idea, you need to prepare a detailed record in which you will describe the idea for the play. This record is called a synopsis. A good synopsis contains a physical description and characteristics of the characters and their mutual relationships. The length of the synopsis can be two or three sentences up to several tens of pages.



*The girl named Caterina had long brown hair, eyes wide and always smiling face. She loved reading love novels, walking in nature, and helping people in distress. The girl in France met her future husband named Slavko. Slavko was a tall young man, dark hair, very diligent and handsome man, favourite among family and friends.*

# SCENARIO/SCRIPT

The script is plan of a drama or film piece. The script is the story of a movie or a play. The script describes the scenes, specifies who and what characters actors will represent, how they appear, what they do and say. The script puts the play into a logical order and with a progressive intensity, so smaller events lead on to the most important.

Characterization of the characters and dialogue between them is important because it improves the story. The script can be written either by hand or on a computer. It can be printed in a notebook or in script writing software.



# DIRECTOR

The script writer can often be a movie or play director. The theatrical director is a person who ideally and organically sets a stage piece. He or she also participate in the design of the stage arrangement and is responsible for all aspects of the stage act and working with the actors. The director can also take part in the process of selecting actors, editing or replacing particular scenarios.

# ACTORS

An actor is a person who plays a role in an artistic performance. This term usually refers to people acting in the film industry, television, theatre or radio, and sometimes used for street entertainers.

# SCENE EXERCISES

Scenes exercises and performances help develop self-confidence and positively affect the cognitive development of a person. It is a good idea to get acquainted with the technique of breathing, at the beginning of the workshop. Often participants in playwrighting workshops are guided through a series of games and dramatic exercises through the process of raising awareness of themselves and their bodies as an acting instrument, both individually and in the group. After that, they explore their body, movement and voice and, based on their self-knowledge and through drama exercises create archetypes of characters and make them aware of dramatic situations – scenes, that they will be engaged in. The next stage is connecting characters and creating short drama scenes. The last step is to rehearse the show until the premiere show. You can perform at parties, in front of friends or at special events. It's important to study scenery, costume, lighting, and tone. But the play can be performed in the classroom, or at the park, in the theatre or the living room of your home.



# FROM GRANDMA'S STORY TO THEATRE PLAY

## GRANDMA'S STORIES HAVE A STRONG MESSAGE

We often remember special moments from our lives, but also the lives of people we know. Numerous films and even theatrical performances are based on true stories. The theme of a film extends our life experience and understanding of the world and the relationship around us. The theme teaches or acquaints you with different cultures, characters and actions. It conveys our experience and introduces us to the way people react to the world around them.



### Exercise 1. This grandma's story is great? You've got an idea!

Interview an older woman (mother or granddaughter, neighbour or teacher) and learn more about her life. Is there a special moment or person in her life? Is there a special item? Perhaps this moment or subject is an ideal idea for the scenario. The theme of the grandma story can be "Extraordinary Weaving/Knitting". The theme of the play is the weaving technique that Caterina, French born in Sardinia, taught in a small Croatian village called Habjanovci.



### Exercise 2. You have chosen the theme! Create a synopsis.

The synopsis is a record describing the theme and characters of play. Remember! Find out more about people and details from their lives to be able to better describe the features and characteristics of the characters that will appear in the play. Each character must be described (its appearance, age, characteristics). It is also necessary to clarify their interrelationships.

Example. Habjanovci is a small Croatian, picturesque village, located in Slavonia, near Osijek. Caterina lives in Habjanovci. Caterina (a woman born in Sardinia who grew up in France, aged 65, height 160 cm, a medium constitution, a short haircut and a wide smile, very swirling, bright and tender) was married to Slavko (a man born in Croatia, life spent in France, height 180 cm, slim body constitution, dark hair, very diligent and handsome man, favourite among family and friends).

Why is this description important? Because you will be looking for ideal actors for roles. If the body structure or appearance of the actor does not match the physical appearance, then you will try to transform the character through the costumes and the makeup. But if it's a children's play, then it is enough to enjoy the roles and deliver the script.



### Exercise 3. After selecting a theme, characterizing the characters and clarifying their relationships you can start with making a scenario.

Let's remember! In the scenario we show events through a logical sequence. The script can be from a few pages up to a hundred. But, for starters, it's enough to prepare a short scenario through several scenes. Afterwards every new scenario will be done more easily. We wish you success in writing your play.

# EXAMPLE

## SHORT SCENARIO FOR TWO SCENES OF "EXTRAORDINARY WEAVING / KNITTING"

### CHARACTERS

Caterina - a woman born in Sardinia who grew up in France, lives in village Habjanovci in Croatia, aged 65, height 160 cm, a medium constitution, a short haircut and a wide smile, very swirling, bright and tender

Marija – student age 23, lives in Osijek in Croatia, conducts a researches of „living in villages“

### LOCATION

Habjanovci, Caterine's house

### TIME

noon



## Scene One

**Marija visits Caterina. It's around noon. Sound of knocking at the entrance door.**

**Marija:** *Good day! Is anyone there?* Marija opens the door and glimpse into the house. Catherine answers from the kitchen.

**Mrs. Caterina:** *Good day! Good afternoon! Go on. Here you go!* The influence of a French accent in is felt in Caterine's Croatian.

**Marija:** *Good day! Great that I was able to find your home! Today is a wonderful day. I am so lucky to be interviewing you, dear Caterina. The deadline for submission of the final work is close and the only thing I miss is talking to you!*

**Mrs Caterina:** *Come on in! Please. I apologize, but I have not prepared anything, since my grandchildren are coming to visit from France and there is a lot of handcrafting. I want to prepare special presents for them using traditional waving loom. \**

**Marija:** *A traditional weaving loom? I've never seen one. And you've learned to use it ?* Mary looks at Caterina in wonder and with a big smile on her face.

**Mrs. Caterina:** *Yes, yes. After my Slavko died, I asked grandma Ceca to teach me how to weave. She is a beautiful old lady who lived at the end of my street. She always fitted my daughter for her folk costume. I remember her telling me "My dear child, weaving is hard, you do not know what that is". And I'm so busy learning to weave. And then ... I climbed up the attic and discovered her loom, took it down, cleaned it well and began to weave on it.*

**Marija:** *I have never weaved!*

**Mrs. Caterina:** *Do you want to try it?*

**Marija:** *Yes! Of course!*

\*An apparatus for making fabric by weaving yarn or thread.



## Scene Two

Catherine looks at Mary and encourages her to sit at the loom and encourages her to sit down. Mary is shy, yet she lets Catherine first show her work on the loom.

**Mrs Caterina:** *You see! These are all the essential parts of a weaving loom. Catherine pleasantly agrees and starts weaving.*

**Mary:** *Catherine, so you're a true master! Well this is not easy! And tell me ...is there anything special you have thought Habjanovci residents?*

**Mrs Caterina:** *The Habjanovci culture is so rich that I simply could not think of anything to teach them. I really live their culture. Actually, it's my culture now.*



# LOGISTIC

GATHER YOUR FRIENDS AND DIVIDE THE  
TASKS

**To create a great drama play the most important thing is to share the activities among each other.**

Remember! It is very important to explore the theme of the idea on which you will create a script, especially if you are writing about true events and characters. Figure out what friend writes excellent essays, who is an excellent illustrator, who knows how to sew, who is fit for making a doll. All together you can create a scenario. Then think of friends who like to act.

Choose the date when you will be performing the play for the first time and then create a hodogram of all required activities and tasks.

And at the very end ... Have fun!

**Good luck! We want you a lot of success in preparing your play.**



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