

Short+Sweet and the ACT Writers Centre presents

WRITING TEN MINUTE PLAYS

an intensive weekend workshop with Alex Broun

In the lead up to the 2010 Short + Sweet Festival, this workshop gives scriptwriters a great opportunity to work on their entries. This intensive weekend workshop is broken into 7 sessions:

1. **What makes a good ten minute play?** Tackle the fundamental question: just what is a ten minute play? What should you write your play about? How do you know if you're trying to tell too big a story in too short a time? What are the elements required for a good ten minute play?
2. **Shorter and sweeter:** Participants attend *Shorter+Sweeter* – the best of Short+Sweet, at Canberra Theatre Centre to see some of the top ten minute plays from Short+Sweet. This will provide a further basis for discussion during the course and will help to shape their own ideas.
3. **Story and structure:** Look at story structure and explore how to dramatise your story in the most theatrically satisfying way. Consider what makes a good Beginning, Middle and End, and look into different styles or genres of theatre and consider what is the best style for your play.
4. **Character and dialogue:** How do you create memorable characters? What is the role of character in the theatre? Are you allowing your characters to speak truthfully, including the slight variations that make one character on stage different and bind your characters with an audience. This session will look at rhythm, dialogue and use of language in the theatre.
5. **Theatricality and surprise:** Explore WHY your play needs to be produced on stage and what makes it different from film and television. This session will challenge the writers to find adventurous and new ways to tell their story and bring it to life on stage. It will also look at the important nature of surprise in theatre through character revelation and/or incident and staying one step ahead of your audience.
6. **Workshopping your script:** Participants will read and workshop their scripts, which they have written during the course, with Short + Sweet actors. They will physicalise the script with the actors and see how their text works on stage, allowing them to test their play and seeing how it will work when performed.
7. **On stage:** In the climax of the course participants scripts will be given moved public readings by the Short+Sweet actors to an invited audience. This is a chance for the writers to see how their work comes to life on stage, and more importantly, how the audience responds to it. They will then be able to do any further revisions on their play before entering it for consideration to the 2010 Short + Sweet Festival.

Alex Broun is one of the world's leading experts in 10 minute plays and the current Artistic Director of Short+Sweet in Sydney, Alex has had no less than sixty 10 minute plays produced across the globe in over 300 productions including Short+Sweet 2002–2010 and Shorter+Sweeter 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 – The Best of Short+Sweet. Internationally Alex has had short plays produced in the USA, UK, Canada, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa and Taiwan . His longer plays have been performed at the Sydney Festival and he has twice received script development funding from the AFC. Visit www.alexbroun.com for more information.

When: 28 May (5.30-10pm), 29 May (10am-4pm), 30 May (10am-7pm)

Where: ACT Writers Centre and Canberra Theatre Centre

How much: Members of the ACT Writers Centre \$200
Full-time students and concessional members \$150
Non-members \$260 (includes 12 months of membership)
Course cost includes one ticket to see *Shorter+Sweeter*

Bookings through the ACT Writers Centre office on 6262 9191 or visit
www.actwriters.org.au/workshops2010.html