

ALL MY IDEAS SUCK



How to find, create, and develop theatrical and sustainable play ideas.

Warm Ups

Start every writing session with warm ups. 5-10 minutes. Warm ups help to:

- Ease into the writing process.
- Prevent writers block.
- Allow you to write without the pressure of producing.

Where do I look for Ideas?

- **Observation:** Observe people, places and things as a writer. Look at the world around for something you've never noticed before. Ask questions: What if? Why does? Where did? Who is? Describe using the five senses.
- **Issues/Events:** There are an endless number of topics. Narrow it down to issues/events. Examine issues/events in terms of extremes – big, small, the most important and the least important. There is much to mine in the small and the stupid!
- **Inspiration File:** Make a file of inspirational jumping off points: song lyrics, photos, poems, headlines. Answer the following: I firmly believe... I always... I never... I want... I hate... I fear... I wish...

What are Ideas?

Writers often feel they need to create great, big, wonderful, fully formed ideas from the start. Ideas NEVER come fully formed ready to be made into plays. Ideas are thoughts, fragments, questions. Ideas MUST start small. IDEAS ARE NOT PLAYS!

Use the following sentence starters to start the idea ball rolling on a topic, observation, or inspiration point. All you have to do is finish the sentence...

- I wonder...
- What if...
- If only...
- It would be interesting...
- Why does...

Continued Over...

What makes an Idea theatre?

The idea must be stageable. You must be able to stage the idea in your theatre, with the risers, cubes, tables, chairs, and small props that are often readily available. Think with a THEATRE brain, not a MOVIE brain! Limit your play to one location and one moment, to one place and one time.

What makes an Idea sustainable?

Conflict & Character give you something to write about beyond the idea: Who is your main character? What details do you know about them? What do they want? Why do they want it? Why now? What obstacle is in their way?