



Emerging Artists Trust Writers Group - Block 2, 2016
14th July - 13th October

Understanding Genre

Facilitated by [Steve Barr](#) & [Casey Whelan](#)

Genre can be confusing. Even the word itself is amorphous - in some contexts, “genre” means anything that isn’t a naturalistic drama, but in other contexts “naturalistic drama” is a genre in itself. And while writing in an established genre can give your movie a better chance of finding an audience, no audience wants to watch a movie that is generic.

The aim of this course is to take the confusion out of genre. Not only will you learn the expectations and semiotics of the most common genres, you’ll learn how to deduce the expectations of any genre for yourself.

The course will involve lectures and discussions, plus material to read and write in between sessions. By the end of the course, you’ll be able to confidently move in and out of various genres, decide the most appropriate genre for any story you want to tell, and be able to confidently discuss genre requirements with any collaborators you may work with in the future.

This course is suitable for all creatives in film and television. While especially useful for screenwriters, it will be valuable to directors and creative producers as well.

14 July

* Session 1: Introduction

What is genre and why do people have a love/hate relationship with it?

Structure genres vs emotion genres

How can we learn the rules of an unfamiliar genre?

21 July

* Session 2: Drama

Naturalistic vs heightened

Character drama vs situation drama

Coming of Age, the cinema of unease, and the New Zealand “brand”

4 August

* Session 3: Romance and RomComs and their subgenres
A RomCom isn't just a Romance with jokes.
Reinvigorating tired genres

18 August

* Session 4: Comedy and its subgenres
Taika Waititi, Woody Allen, Todd Solondz, and Adam Sandler walk into a bar...

1 September

* Session 5: Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and their subgenres
How do we talk about the stuff we're not allowed to talk about? We disguise it.

15 September

* Session 6: Action and Adventure and their subgenres
Explosions and chase scenes don't have to be boring.

29 September

* Session 7: Crossing genres, subverting genres, mashups, and spoofs

13 October

* Session 8: The participants will have picked a genre we haven't discussed, and make a presentation on its expectations and rules

Please note: the first two sessions are one week apart, and the following six sessions are fortnightly.

Cost

The cost for all 8 sessions is \$120 (to be paid by 7th July).
The fee is non-refundable - it is a commitment, and an opportunity to be part of the best value writers group in the land!

Time and Venue

All sessions are 6.30-8.30pm

Community Room
Toi Poneke Arts Centre
61 Abel Smith st, Wellington

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