

## EAT Genre Block Overview

Genre dictates the emotional experience and action of the movie, but not necessarily the story. This block will be about learning how to generate the emotional experience you wish to evoke with your screenplay.

### Session 1 (7<sup>th</sup> May): Introduction

*Week one will introduce the curriculum for the block and an exercise of telling the same story within different genres will be completed.*

#### Curriculum overview:

-Introduction: What is genre and how can it be used as a platform to tell human stories with meaning?

#### A Brief Exploration of the genres:

- Comedy
- Romantic Comedy
- Horror/Thriller
- Sci-Fi/Fantasy
- Action/Adventure
- Crime/Mystery
- Epic
- Social realist/gritty drama
- prestige drama/ Oscar/festival-bait
- Musical
- Teen
- Where do NZ films fit? Are NZ films their own genre?
- How have genres and the forms in which we tell stories evolved over time? (IE, what is the Western nowadays?)

*Session 1 will conclude with an exercise where participants will use the same premise to create different stories in different genres. This exercise may become the screenplay writers workshop later in the block.*

**Session 2 (21 May):**

*An exploration of the 7 basic plots and how they relate to genre.*

*A closer look at horror and thriller and the subsets of both genres.*

*Two writers will volunteer scripts to be workshopped.*

**Session 3 (4 June):**

*Looking at Blake Snyder's 8 story types and where each fits into genre and what emotional experience each story type evokes.*

*A closer look at romantic comedy and buddy movies.*

*Two writers will have scripts workshopped.*

**Session 4 (18 June):**

*What are hero's journey beats in each genre? And what actions must each genre contain to meet audience expectation?*

*A closer look at action and adventure and the subsets of each genre.*

*Two writers will have scripts workshopped.*

**Session 5 (2 July):**

*Allegory, symbolism, and metaphor in genre.*

*A closer look at sci-fi/fantasy and the subsets of each genre. Do other genres fit under the sci-fi/fantasy category? What kinds of stories can be told within science fiction/fantasy?*

**Session 6 (16 July):**

*Examining New Zealand films. Looking at New Zealand genre films. The Quiet Earth, Sleeping Dogs, Good for Nothing, etc. What genres have been the most successful in New Zealand? What have been the most common?*

*What emotional experiences and stakes are the most convincing within a New Zealand setting?*

*The genre boom of last year. Housebound, The Deadlands...*

*How does the New Zealand setting influence genre?*

*What is a typical New Zealand film? Are there conventions?*

*Two writers will have their scripts workshopped.*

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Ideally the two scripts being workshopped each session will be in different genres than the ones we are discussing each week and this will allow us to explore more genres and their techniques in depth throughout the block.