

**SCREENWRITER'S TOOLKIT**  
**5-Session Workshop**  
**Facilitated by Dr Gavin McGibbon**

To write an effective, engaging and moving script, requires a writer to bring a lot of different skills and tools to the piece. This series will examine how to develop these and how to use these tools to create a lasting impact on the story and more importantly, an audience.

The series will help scriptwriters add important elements to their writing. There will be specific advance viewing required each week which will then be used as a launching point for in class exercises and discussion.

This course will be especially valuable to writers who are looking at ways to enrich the scripts they have been working on or those looking to start a new project.

**About GAVIN McGIBBON**

Dr Gavin McGibbon is currently the Programme Leader of the MA Screenwriting programme at Liverpool John Moores University. He has taught playwriting at Victoria University of Wellington for the International Institute of Modern Letters, where he has also worked as a MA Supervisor on Ken Duncum's MA Scriptwriting Course. Gavin has also worked for the New Zealand Film Commission, the New Zealand Film School, Massey University and Victoria Continuing Education.

Gavin has an MA and a PhD in scriptwriting. He has had the opportunity to learn in person from some of the best teachers in the business, Ken Duncum, Robert McKee, Christopher Vogler, Karl Iglesias, Scott Myers, Karol Griffiths and many others.

Seven of Gavin's plays have been produced (*After Service, Stand Up Love, Shipwrecked Beneath the Stars, Handy Man, Hamlet dies at the end, Holding On, CON*) and he is a co-writer of two short films which have played in numerous international festivals. Students of Gavin's have gone on to write for *Coronation Street, Shortland Street* and have won awards as both playwrights and screenwriters.

Emerging Artists Trust was delighted when Gavin established and led the EAT writing courses in 2010. He currently lives abroad so this is a rare opportunity to hear a very different take on scriptwriting. He doesn't believe in formula - he believes in craft and using that craft to create an emotional response for the audience.

**Schedule and Outline**

**8th July**

1) INTRODUCTION AND HOW TO BUILD AND USE INTRIGUE IN YOUR STORY

Intrigue. Dramatic Questions. These are effective ways of grabbing the audience and getting them swept up into your story. It's also a way to have an audience become excited and desiring exposition. Yes, exposition, that thing that writers fear and dread! There are ways to make intrigue work for you, to get that exposition out to an audience without them even realising it.

**15<sup>th</sup> July**

2) HOW TO GET DEEPER INTO YOUR CHARACTERS

People constantly ask what's more important, plot or character? The truth is it has to be the character. And the character needs to be the one who informs the plot. There are often little nuggets hidden away in the script the writer needs to look for that are actually the heart of the story.

This class will explore how to get to know your characters better and techniques to have your character tell you what the story is meant to be about.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> July**

#### **3) HOW TO KNOW WHICH CHARACTERS TO POPULATE YOUR STORY WITH**

Who are the characters that are meant to be in your story? Which characters are the ones that just have to be there and which are the ones that are getting in the way of the story? This class will explore how to tell the difference and ways to make sure you have the right characters in your story.

### **29<sup>th</sup> July**

#### **4) HOW TO USE TRUTH VS. TRUTH TO ENTHRALL AN AUDIENCE**

Classic storytelling often doesn't involve right vs wrong, good vs. evil. It involves right vs right, truth vs truth. This is a way to add real dramatic weight to your story and have your audience engrossed and conflicted (in the best of ways) over what they want to happen in your story. This class will explore how to add depth and layers to your story by exploring the concept of truth vs. truth.

### **5<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **5) RELATIONSHIPS. THE HEARTBEAT OF EVERY STORY**

Woody and Buzz. Thelma and Louise. At the heart of nearly every story there is a relationship that we care deeply about. This class will explore what makes for a compelling relationship, how to create a relationship that an audience will invest in. Most screenwriting experts focus on the protagonist, the hero's journey. Gavin will argue that relationships are just as important, if not more so.

### **VENUE**

Community Room  
Toi Poneke Arts Centre  
61 Abel Smith St, Te Aro

### **TIME**

Mondays 6:30pm-8:30pm  
8<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> August

### **COST**

\$100 for the full five sessions (payable in advance)

### **REGISTER** *Please note spaces are limited so register quickly!*

To apply, please send

- your CV
- a paragraph explaining how the course will benefit you and what aspect of your craft you would like to work on

to Gavin McGibbon [gavmcgibbon@gmail.com](mailto:gavmcgibbon@gmail.com)

Applications close Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Sally Thorburn  
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