



# IAN PIKE STUDENT AND TEACHER WORKSHOPS

# Narrative Structure, character development and scriptwriting



Lead by freelance professional script writer Ian Pike, with over 30 years experience of working in schools across the world.

With theatre students to help with devising.

With film students to help with filmmaking, storyboarding and scripting.

With theatre, film and creative writing teachers to give them exceptional PD and vital tools to take back into the classroom.

# Ian Pike - workshop leader

Ian has been called into a number of schools in the UK to discuss his writing and deliver workshops to every age group from primary through to sixth form.

For the International Schools Theatre Association, he has travelled the world working at theatre festivals in just about every continent and with every age group, as well as delivering specialist workshops to teachers. These include a number of scriptwriting master classes for International Baccalaureate film teachers in New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Kuala Lumpur. He is an examiner for the I.B. film Diploma Programme. He was heavily involved in the governance of ISTA for a long time and served on the board of trustees for ten years as well as standing as Vice President and working for a number of years as the Assistant Executive Director. He is an honorary life member. He was invited to be a key note speaker at the CEESA (Central and Eastern European Schools Association) conference in Prague.

He has also worked extensively in further education. Running modules and delivering master classes at the Universities of Oxford, MMU, Edge Hill, Leeds Trinity, Chester, Staffordshire, Glasgow, Huddersfield, Aberystwyth, Surrey, Leeds Beckett, Worcester, UCLAN, Bolton, Plymouth, Sunderland, SAE, Leeds Arts and Salford. He has been a professional advisor and dissertation supervisor for a number of MA final script projects and has steered a large number of student scripts from initial concept to final draft, in both creative writing and animation departments.



# Ian Pike - writer



Currently writing on *Have I Got News For You*.

Future work includes writing on a well known Disney Plus series in the States and Ian also has a sitcom in development with James Corden's production company - Fulwell 73.

Past work has included: An original comedy drama, written in development with Ben Miller for Toff Media/Hat Trick. This was later developed by Lime Pictures. A sitcom written for Channel X. A sitcom commissioned by Noel Gay TV and Carlton Television which resulted in a rehearsed reading at ITV with Stephen Graham and Angela Griffin, directed by Ed Bye. And a sitcom which was co-produced by STV and The Comedy Unit. This was performed live at the Citizen's Theatre. He has also written for *Hollyoaks* and on numerous CBBC shows, as well as all of the adapted horror stories on *The Fear* for BBC. Ian's earliest work was a series idea selected for the Channel 4/Assembly TV sitcom Festival and he began by writing spec sketches for *Hale and Pace* and *The Jack Docherty* show on Channel 5. He is a regular contributor to *NewsBiscuit* and *The Kickabout With Johnny Vaughn* on Radio X. He is represented by Laura Rourke at Independent Talent.

[www.ianpike.co.uk](http://www.ianpike.co.uk)

## Recent Schools and projects.



The projects Ian has been privileged enough to lead in schools over recent months have included:

Taking a well-known children's story and helping the DP students transform it into a Covid friendly radio play for 4-7-year-olds at Frankfurt International School.

A monologue writing and performance project with Marymount International School, London.

A cross arts scriptwriting project with The International School of Älmhult in Sweden.

Helping students to storyboard a physical theatre and shadow puppet-based performance at The International School of Lausanne in Switzerland.

Working with the year 9 and 10 theatre students, as well as all IB, DP film students at The Atlanta International School on scriptwriting.

Running a radio play project at The International School of Geneva.

Working on monologue writing at the International School of La Châtaigneraie.

Working with DP theatre students at Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School Albuquerque on a project to help kickstart their spring production.

# Theatre workshops

## What's the story?

Putting narrative and character at the heart of theatre making

### Goals and learning outcomes:

To introduce students to three act structure across all forms of theatre.

To offer participants insight into an exploration of character development, biography and backstory.

To give in-depth knowledge of all aspects of storytelling and scriptwriting.

To put story at the heart of devising.

To take students through the process of starting point, storyboard, scene breakdown and script.

To give all participants a toolkit of techniques to use in future devising.



## Through the following programmes:

### Dynamic monologues

Across a number of sessions tailored according to school needs. This workshop will offer basic storytelling techniques. Leading to a fuller understanding of three act, narrative structure based on a well thought through character. As well as an exploration of the need to work with universal themes. All building up to a final performance.





## Creating a radio play for a younger audience



Across several sessions, this programme will tackle collaborative devising, writing and performance. Guiding middle or high school students through the process of taking a starting point and turning it into a radio play for the Primary Years. Gaining an understanding of the needs of dialogue and sound-effect only performance. As well as developing an awareness of audience. This programme will leave young creatives with a large number of tools to take into any future devising.



## Cross arts devising



This project will aim to set up a programme with the potential to provide links across drama, dance, visual arts, music and film. Creating a starting point with links across all art forms, then working specifically with the theatre students on devising a performance on radio or stage. As well as having the potential to lead film students through storyboarding, script and production.

# Physical theatre

This project will provide the foundations for young devisers to put together a performance with a carefully thought through narrative structure across three acts. As well as putting 'story' at the heart of the final sharing. Based on characters with highly detailed biography and backstory. Showing how physical theatre performances work best with a clear narrative rather than being a series of unrelated moments. Leaving students with skills to take forward into all future work.



# Devising a film, stage or radio play from starting point to performance

FINAL STORYBOARD

Act One / Beginning	Act Two / Middle	Act Three / End
		<p>Wolf is on his way to the Wood house.</p> <p>- Piggyback</p> <p>2nd piggy back story coming to the 3 pigs because he's on the door. Pigs become in.</p> <p>- all home</p> <p>- 3 pigs</p> <p>- pig tell of himself</p>
		<p>3 pigs are scared in the house.</p> <p>Andy pig, pointing to "we're all gonna die like pigs"</p> <p>Stand pig, make it about pigs, the pig, and the pig in the house.</p>
		<p>Wolf says I will shut up.</p> <p>3 blow your house down.</p> <p>the cat blow it down.</p> <p>3 try's again &amp; again.</p> <p>and humor</p> <p>- gets dinner</p> <p>- piggy back</p> <p>and things - can</p> <p>- blow down</p> <p>- wind machine</p>
<p>The 3 pigs decide to part ways and build their own houses.</p>	<p>The wolf has blown down the first 2 houses and is going towards the 3rd.</p>	<p>he decides to climb down the chimney &amp; falls. 3 but's his head &amp; the pigs cheer, tie him up &amp; bring him to the police.</p> <p>Wolf roughs up pig &amp; pig is super drill</p>

Across a number of sessions, tailored to fit school needs and budgets, this programme will lead students from page to stage. Teaching the best way to devise collaboratively from starting point, through storyboard to scene breakdown and script and final sharing. Leaving participants with any number of ensemble techniques, devising skills and ways of successful tackling any future collaborative project.

## The Mike Leigh approach



Taking someone you know as a starting point, this project will lead participants through some of the techniques used by Mike Leigh. Enabling students to see how a character can evolve and lead to story. How that story can then change with the introduction of another character. And how that story can then be documented in storyboard and script.

# Teacher workshops

## Goals and learning outcomes:

To lead teachers through a series of exercises that forensically interrogate three act structure in all forms of theatre.

To offer in depth exploration of character development, biography and backstory.

To give insightful knowledge of all aspects of storytelling and scriptwriting.

To put 'story' at the heart of student devising.

To facilitate the teacher as student role.

To give all participants a toolkit of exercises and techniques to take back to school with them.

## Through the following workshop offerings:



## One off narrative and character sessions



Across one tailored session. This workshop will go through *Ian Pike's 26 rules of scriptwriting*. A general introduction which will leave participants with a handy template for all future theatre devising. Covering everything from three act structure, working with universal themes, strong beginnings, avoiding cliches, the use of storyboards, hitting ends of acts and midpoints and character journey and development. This workshop will provide a number of general techniques to help students in the rehearsal room, when creating their own performances.



## Storyboarding and character workshops across two sessions



A more in-depth exploration of the 26 rules process.

This workshop will aim to teach narrative structure and character development through a practical performance. With teachers, in the role of student, working on the task of creating a devised piece of theatre, using given techniques. The first session will see teachers use storyboards and detailed character work to create the outline of a performance. In the second session, participants will devise, rehearse and perform from a given starting point with detailed feedback and takeaways given for future work.



## Full day or weekend long teacher workshops

Across one or two days, with the teacher in role as deviser and performer, exploring a number of techniques, born from television screenwriting, that can be brought across to theatre devising. Allowing participants to leave fully equipped to ensure student devising has narrative structure and story at the heart of the work that they create, rather than being a series of random and unconnected moments. Working with fully thought through, three dimensional characters with backstory.

This would involve:

- Learning a new understanding of the process and benefits of storyboarding.
- Scriptwriting.
- Character creation and development.
- Looking at specific moments in performance - beginnings, endings, mid points and end of acts.
- Exploring story through monologue.
- Discussing cross-arts possibilities.
- Ensuring that story is at the heart of physical theatre work as much as narrative based performance.
- Giving teachers the tools to teach students to self-edit.

This project provides the greatest scope for links back to both curriculums and devising, as well as through any collaborative work. Allowing students to then be able to devise through carefully thought through narrative structure.

Channelling teachers towards access to invaluable professional development that will enhance student learning for years to come.

# Film workshops

## Goals:

To deliver successful screenwriting techniques to young filmmakers and their teachers.

To offer in depth exploration of three-act, narrative structure.

To give in depth knowledge of the role of the writer in film.

Allowing the teacher as student role to offer valuable PD.

## Through the following workshop offerings:



## One off screenwriting/narrative structure sessions (available both online and face to face)

Across one hour, 90 minute or two-hour sessions tailored according to school timetables. This workshop will go through *Ian Pike's 26 rules of scriptwriting* – a handy template for all future screenwriting. With specific links back to the IB DP Film Portfolio and helping all participants to fully understand the role of the writer if required.



# Storyboarding and character workshops

Two sessions of one hour or 90-minutes (online or face to face)

This workshop will aim to teach narrative structure and character development, then set students the task of writing a storyboard across three acts, with a detailed character study, to be ready for the next workshop. In the second session, each student will get specific feedback. Providing links to the role of the writer when reading and contextualizing film as well as when collaboratively producing film.



**From starting point to screening.** Projects across several sessions, with set work in between (online or face to face) with the potential for collaboratively produced short films as an end point.

This project provides the greatest scope for links back to curriculums and an exploration of the role of the writer, as well as allowing for the perfect platform to collaboratively produce films. Allowing students to frame their core production team work around carefully thought through narrative structure.



# Workshops for creative writing teachers in all departments

Teaching narrative structure and character development work to English departments and teachers across every subject looking to learn skills to put 'story' at the heart of learning and creative writing. An opportunity for highly effective PD and the chance to gain valuable skills to bring back into the classroom for years to come.



## Testimonials from teachers....

*Ian brings a great sense of play learning. For several years we have collaborated delivering a practical film workshop aimed at high school teachers. Ian has a master class session during the workshop where he artfully (and with no small dose of humour) breaks down storytelling and how to capture audience through setting up narrative. Ian's open and fun-loving approach to writing good stories breaks down any fear that a participant may have. He is generous with his knowledge and time and elevates people's work by offering them very real and practical tools that they can start using immediately. I continue to use approaches and methods that Ian shared with me and each time I do, my classroom is a raucous mess of students delighting in the characters they are creating and the stories that they are crafting. Working with Ian has left a lasting impression on me as a teacher and on several cohorts of young students exploring story through both film and theatre.*

Teacher, UWC ISAK Japan.

*So many imaginative questions for our students, such a refreshing approach and what an incredible ability you have to develop and nurture ideas with our students. That you managed to do this without even being physically present in the room is nothing short of remarkable.*

Head of Theatre Department, La Châtaigneraie

*Ian offered clarity and structure to my Year 10 students, using his experience and knowledge to help them create stories that remained true to their intentions and appropriate to their intended audience. I highly recommend his calm and knowledgeable approach.*

MYP drama and DP theatre teacher, International School of Lausanne

*Our sixth form students really enjoyed the sessions with Ian, which were highly interactive and engaging. Students were asked to contribute spontaneously, which generated a mass of ideas they were able to inject into their own projects. They particularly liked the industry 'insider' information with practical tips on how to get a foot into this competitive field. Ian was engaging, knowledgeable and fun - everything you could want for your students.*

Teacher, Carmel 6th Form College. U.K.



## ... and testimonials from students and Universities

*Ian led my most memorable class at University. A short film writing class, he was very intuitive, supporting and knowledgeable on story design. I came away from his classes knowing I'd been engaged in great tuition.*

B.A. undergraduate student U.K.

*I worked with Ian for several years on the delivery of a final year undergraduate video production module. Ian's responsibility was to supervise fiction projects. This included working collectively and individually with students on idea and script development, and the delivery of one-to-one formative feedback during the production and post-production stages. Ian's professional experience and knowledge of a wide range of fiction genres and platforms was a real asset to the module. I always found Ian to be professional, reliable and completely committed to the role.*

University Lecturer U.K.

*I have worked with Ian Pike for 10 years now and he is an excellent tutor, both on long term final year projects, first year introduction to modules and one-off sessions. The students gain a lot from his industry experience and his professionalism, as well as his teaching skills. He is also an excellent colleague to work alongside.*

University Programme Leader U.K.

# Practicalities

All workshops and projects bespoke to the needs of any particular cohort after initial teacher consultation and discussion.

Lead by a scriptwriter with over 26 years of professional credits. With as many years experience teaching script/screenwriting and workshop leading. Having also produced the IB Cat 3 Practical Film Production teacher workshops and who is now an IB DP Film examiner and who has also spent the entirety of his professional life delivering theatre workshops around the globe and working in education.

Please contact : [ianpike5000@gmail.com](mailto:ianpike5000@gmail.com)  
to discuss costings and with any questions.

