Ten-Minute Play Festivals are happening all over the country. In this course, we will explore the fundamentals needed to write solid short plays with compelling characters in complex situations where our people find they are in conflict with others and perhaps themselves. We’ll talk about how to use text as well as subtext in our dialogue. We’ll also discuss ways to make sure our stage directions as clear, concise and active. Finally we’ll examine how other writers have achieved success with this abbreviated art form by focusing on their use of character, time, place, plot, structure, language and theme.

Recommended books:


Participants should bring in a short play that is no more than ten pages in length. It is absolutely fine for participants to then rewrite this short play after having received comments and bring it into the next class. It is also absolutely fine to take the criticism and keep moving forward with another short play.

Everyone should give some thought to who should read what.

Everyone should be ready to listen.

And everyone should be prepared to present something in each and every one of our eight sessions. We may not always get to everyone’s work, but we will try. Even if a participant has nothing to present on a particular week, they will find it helpful to attend as they may benefit from comments that are made about the work of others and their own comments will almost certainly contribute to the conversation.