University of Chicago, Graham School
The Writer’s Studio

Developing a Play-in-Progress
WRIT23801
Summer 2022

Thursdays at 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. from June 23 to August 11
Online

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This course is designed for playwrights who want to develop a script on which they have already begun work. This may include anything from a full-length play to a one-act play to a series of short plays. The class will explore the skills and qualities of effective dramatic writing by reading and discussing the participants' scripts in a supportive and challenging environment, with the goal being to get their plays ready for production.

Participants should bring a scene from their play that is no more than ten pages in length. It can be from the beginning or the middle or the end of their play, but, generally, it is better to move forward chronologically. It is also better to bring in something that they feel has a particular problem or needs work or, at the very least, can be improved upon. It is absolutely fine for participants to then rewrite this scene and bring it in for the next class. It is also absolutely fine to take the criticism and keep moving forward.

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.