

HOW TO WRITE A FILM

With artist Rob Young

We all spent 2 years of our lives watching movies. That's 10,000 films, the equivalent of A-Level film studies. So, it makes sense to unlock that dormant knowledge and celebrate what we (already) know.

In this warm, witty and welcoming workshop, Rob Young will reveal the craft of screenwriting. It's a subject that anyone can learn, and non-writers are welcome. If nothing else, it will help you get more out of the films that you watch.

Inspired by the De Morgan collection, Rob will help us create a hero and walk them through a classic Hollywood plot. By learning how to craft a story, we will learn to tell our own, with clarity and grace.

It's film school in an hour, for free.

ROB YOUNG

Rob is an award-winning screenwriter who has spent 20 years writing for the UK's biggest film, TV and theatre companies including the BBC, Channel 4, Sony, Aardman, Working Title, National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company. He has written everything from a Christina Ricci movie to Google's first play. Rob has just had 100 of his poems built into the pavements of Kent and is a former BAFTA Screenplay Judge.

Once upon a time...

We all know what makes a good film and what makes a boring one.

In a good film, stuff *happens*. It's exciting. We can't wait to find out **what happens next?**

There aren't any boring bits where the story... drifts.... off... into... the...fog.

So, when we write a movie, let's make it a good one. But *how?*

Easy! Just follow these simple steps:

Creating a Hero

Every story needs a Hero. So, let's create one. It doesn't matter if it's a boy, a girl, a pug or a slug, just pick a creature you like.

Then give them a challenge. That's it! See, I told you it was easy.

Imagine a Dodo, like the one made by William de Morgan.



What would be *really* hard for this little bird to do?

- Fly?
- Play the piano?
- What else?

Or if you chose Prince Charming? What would it be *really* hard for him to do?

- Be a baddie?
- Have a day off?
- What else?

What about Ariadne? Shown in this this wonderful painting by Evelyn de Morgan?



Ariadne has been abandoned on a desert island? What would be *really* hard for her to do?

- Escape?
- Survive?
- Win Strictly Come Dancing?

Who is *your* hero? Is it a dog or a cat? A shy boy or a poor girl?

What's their challenge? To be brave? To be rich? To win Dog of the Year?

That's what your story is about.

Plot

Then all you have to do is take your Hero for a walk.

Where are they going? To face their biggest challenge!

The Start

First, we see the Hero in their ordinary day. What does that look like? Are they a bit bored?

Then something (from the challenge) calls them away. The Hero can't resist.

"But watch out!", warns a friend, "If you go on this journey, your life will change forever".

The Middle

The Hero leaves their home and enters the brave new world (of the challenge).

After a clumsy introduction, the Hero nervously approaches the Great Big Battle.

It's a serious case of "What's the worst that could happen?"

Then Oh No! The Hero fails. It's totally embarrassing.

But in that moment, they learn something. What does your Hero learn?

The End

The Hero feels cringey and is chased home. Are they chased by the baddies? Or their shame?

Unable to escape, the Hero must finally face up to their challenge, in one final battle.

But this time, they have a secret weapon, the wisdom they have learned.

They triumph. Hooray!

The film ends with the Hero back in their ordinary world, but it's no longer ordinary.

Congratulations, you've just written a movie!