

## Writers Workshop Rules for the Writer During the Comment Session

The Tuesday night Playwriting workshop is not a class on playwriting. It is a workshop for professional writers. Because Theatre West is a membership company, the workshop is also open to non-writer members who want to begin writing projects for our short play festival, WestFest, a solo project, or a full-length play.

The playwright is responsible for booking a time slot on our calendar (on our website) to read their work. The playwright is responsible for casting, including stage directions.

We encourage our writers to read the fewest stage directions so that the reading doesn't get bogged down with descriptions and directions. We are there to hear the dialogue.

The writer may ask for comments or no comments. It is up to the writer.

The purpose of the comment session is for the writer to listen to the audience's reaction to the play presented, not to enter into a discussion with the audience about the play.

Before the comment session begins, the writer may ask for specific issues to be addressed and/or state that the writer is open to general comments.

During the comment session, the writer may sit quietly and listen to the comments being offered. Taking notes is recommended, but that is up to the writer.

Once the comment session has ended, the writer may ask questions about issues that the writer feels weren't addressed during the comment session, and then the writer may sit quietly and listen to the responses.

There is no clapping after a reading.

A writer may invite up to 5 non-member guests when reading a full-length play. Monologues, short stories, and short plays presented in the workshop have blossomed into full-length plays that have gone on to be produced at Theatre West, around the country, and Off and On-Broadway.