

# **Script Factory Training Proposal: Foundation Development Training in, Orebro Sweden**

---

The foundation of good development is the ability to read and analyse a screenplay in order to ascertain its potential strengths as well as correctly identify the source of its weaknesses.

Over a two-day workshop participants will be introduced to a structured approach of assessing scripts. By examining produced screenplays and reading early work by new screenwriters, participants will consider what makes a good screen story and learn to recognise screenwriting talent. This workshop focuses on how to translate the analysis into **constructive** feedback for writers so that the script report becomes the first stage of script development.

This workshop offers participants the option to prepare a script report, on which they will receive feedback from the tutor, a couple of weeks after the training.

## **The Workshop**

---

### **Course Preparation**

Prior to the course participants will be asked to read one produced screenplay, an early draft of a finished film and watch two films. These will serve as examples throughout the course that can be referred to in detail.

In addition, participants will be asked to read an unproduced screenplay and prepare a brief synopsis and some rough notes.

### **Day One**

The first day of the workshop will focus on the story. During this day participants will be taught how to write synopses, assess the idea of a screenplay and evaluate its structure. We will also consider the impact of genre on story design.

*10.00 – 10.15 Introductions*

*10.15 – 11.30 Distilling the story*

This first session considers the principles of solid story design and how to prepare a brief synopsis of a story. The focus of this task is to distil the essential story spine, against which all elements of the screenplay can then be assessed. As this feedback is intended primarily for the writer, we teach participants to write the synopsis in the most positive light without conveying judgement at this initial stage.

*11.30 – 11.45 Break*

*11.45 – 13.00 The Premise*

This session focuses on the story idea and assessing its potential for a feature film. Participants will be taught how to identify the main conflict in a script and then to analyse whether it offers a strong enough DRAMATIC idea and an interesting enough THEMATIC idea for a feature film.

During this session we will break down into smaller groups to discuss the premise of the unproduced screenplay they have read.

*13.00 – 14.00 Lunch*

*14.00 – 15.15 The Structure*

We then turn our attention to how the screenplay is structured. Using the examples of screenplays and films the participants have studied we will consider the dramatic expectations of different story types. Our focus at this stage of story development is in assessing whether the screenplay offers a clear dramatic conflict and consistently explores it through to a satisfying conclusion.

*15.15 – 15.30 Break*

*15.30 – 17.00 Genre*

Many of the principles of drama can be applied to all story types, yet the techniques required to make an audience laugh at a comedy are clearly very different to those needed to scare them witless with a horror film. Far from simply applying a formula, writing a successful genre screenplay requires a subtle and sophisticated understanding of how and why audiences respond to certain story types. This session introduces participants to the expectations we bring to different story types and considers which elements of the story are governed by genre.

## **Day Two**

The second day of teaching will focus on the technical elements of writing for the screen.

*10.00 - 11.15 Character*

This session will consider what makes a compelling screen character and how to make that character come alive on the page. Students will also be encouraged to consider the function of the secondary characters within the screenplay.

*11.15 – 11.30 Break*

*11.30 – 13.00 Screenwriting Craft*

In the script report we offer separate analysis on Dialogue, Pace & Visual Grammar. This session explores how to identify good screenwriting craft skills and offer useful feedback to the writer.

*13.00 – 14.00 Lunch*

*14.00 – 15.15 Dirty Pretty Things*

From Script to Screen – the development journey

*15.15 – 15.30 Break*

*15.30 – 17.00 Conclusion and Questions*

This final session considers how to summarise the script report by indicating the priorities for development into the next stage. During this session we will also

brief the homework – for those participants that would like feedback on their script reports and enable time for general questions.

17.00 – A Well Deserved Drink!