

IO1 Series of Podcasts

PODCAST 1 - CHARACTER CREATION

Welcome to Re-Write project - Resources for Education in Writing Radio Plays to Inspire Transition into Creative Employment – co-financed by the European Union.

My name is Rachel, I'm Company Director at No Place Productions, a theatre and digital arts company based in Liverpool in the UK. We are the lead coordinating organisation which is a partner of the RE-WRITE project.

This is the first of a series of podcasts on how to create radio plays through simple, practical and fun exercises.

Radio plays are dramatized, acoustic performance, broadcast on the radio or published on audio media (like a CD, for example). With no visuals, radio plays depend on dialogue, music and sound effects to help the listener imagine the characters and the story.

We'll now talk about character creation, and we'll go through two exercises.

You can do these exercises on your own, or work together with other creative people in a group. However, you feel most comfortable.

Please feel free to pause this pod cast anytime you need to, to give yourself more time, reflect, and get creative. You can also repeat the exercises as many times as you like to create multiple characters, and further develop your skills.

Ready to start?

Ok exercise number one is called "Character Shoe"

So, take a shoe, any type, could be a running shoe, a stiletto, a man's boot, a scruffy trainer. It's best if its not your own, but you can use whatever you have available. It can even be a picture of one if that's easier.

Now take your shoe to a comfortable and quite place where you mind can be free and inspired.



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Then ask yourself “Who could this shoe belong to?”

This is the beginning of how a character can be created.

Ask yourself “Who is this person?”

Their name, their age, family relationships? For instance, do they have any siblings, children, a partner? Who are their friends?

With this detail your character is slowly becoming real.

Now continue on this path and decide what are their hobbies are? Where do they live? How do they live? What do they hate? What do they love?

The more detail you can give to this character the better, both physical and personal details.

Once you feel you have enough details, choose a different shoe and create a new character.

After repeating this exercise, a number of times, you will be able to create possible links between the characters.

Interesting, isn't it?

Ok exercise number two: “Draw your character”

This is a fun exercise to generate a more dynamic physical description of your character.

Just try to draw them.

Yeah, it's exactly that: just grab a pencil, colours, paper and start to give a shape to your character. You can begin with simple details like short or long hair, some features of the face that give this person some specific, original characteristics.

It doesn't need to be a great picture, its only for you. You can add some accessories to highlight their personality.

Draw also some details to give to your character a context about what they're doing.



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You're probably thinking: "Why should we draw someone for a radio play?"

But drawing a character can help to make the subtle details clearer about everything, from eye colour to body language. It'll help you generate a fuller physical description of your character.

Crafting a good character description can be hard, but creating a visual reference point to refer to can make your descriptions come alive.

Thanks for taking part in REWRITE.

For further information about the RE-WRITE project and further resources and opportunities available, please visit our website re-write.eu, follow [@rewrite.project.eu](https://www.instagram.com/rewrite.project.eu) on Instagram, [@REWRITEProject1](https://twitter.com/REWRITEProject1) on Twitter, and join the conversation using the hashtag #rewriteEU.

We would like to thank Criminal Justice Arts Alliance Conference and [masterclass dot com](http://masterclass.com) for inspiring us on this first podcast.

Now take your time and Re-Write it out!



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