

The Art of Writing for The Theatre

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Critical Points to Consider: Playwriting

- 1) Does the play create a world that is both recognizable and unique?
- 2) Do characters behave and speak in a way that is logical - for them?
- 3) Are the mood, tone, and energy consistent throughout? Does the plot make sense?
- 4) Is the world of the play plausible according to its own rules (even if it is a fantasy)?
- 5) Does the dialogue sound real (within the chosen style) or cliché?
- 6) Does each scene and character have a purpose? Are they driving the story forward or revealing something new?
- 7) Does the play fulfill its expectations? Do you know within the first five to ten minutes “when you get to go home?” In other words, do you know the central theme and conflict?
- 8) Are characters distinctive from one another, particularly in the way they speak?
- 9) Are the stakes high enough?
- 10) Are the story elements clear (inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, and denouement)?
- 11) Does the play inspire visceral feeling? Do you care about what happens to the characters?
- 12) Is this a story that needed to live on stage? Or would it have worked better as a book or a film?