

COURSE OUTLINE: Adapting the Novel for Film & TV

10.00

INTROS and DISCUSSION: Share a film/TV adaptation of a novel you love/find frustrating – and/or an adaptation you'd love to create yourself.

10.15

DISCUSSION & AUDIO/VIDEO CLIPS: What makes a great adaptation? How do you choose your medium?

Lucy's recorded interviews with writers/adapters: What did the adapter set out to do with the script? How was that different from the original novel? Why?

10.45

EXPLORATION OF STORY STRUCTURE

Story vs. Plot

3 Act structure vs. 5 Act structure

SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION:

Does the story/film you find most satisfying conform to this structure?

How about the story/film that you find the least satisfying?

11.00

PRACTICAL EXERCISE IN PLOT/STORY: Break down a favourite film or novel into five (or three) acts. What/Where is the essence of the story? How easy is it to write the film strapline?

11.30

ROUND ROOM READ OUT: Compare/Contrast 5-Act breakdowns/ straplines.

12.00

DISCUSSION: Using visuals to show and tell. The time it takes to describe visually vs. verbally

12.20

DISCUSSION & AUDIO/VIDEO CLIPS:

Streamlining/Stripping away from the original text

Is there anything that's NOT in the novel which you want to ADD?

How to bring a novel to a whole new audience

CASE STUDY: Brick Lane / Monica Ali

12.40

PRACTICAL EXERCISE: BEING BRAVE

With a book or a story you love, make one radical suggestion/change which could potentially bring the text to a whole new audience.

13.00

LUNCH

Over lunchtime, to think about: What do you want this adaptation to do/to achieve – for the audience, for the novel, for you?

14.00

PRACTICAL EXERCISE: Write a pitch - either for the adaptation you want to write/create/produce – or an existing adaptation which you admire. Things to consider – what’s the essence of the book? What makes your adaptation new and unique? Who are the key talent? What medium?

15.00

GROUP PITCHING SESSION: Each adaptation (as it’s been written/developed so far) is pitched & discussed. Feedback is given and the pitch is commissioned – or not.

16.00

DISCUSSION & AUDIO/VIDEO CLIPS:

Contributions from the cast and crew

How the adaptation can/will evolve in rehearsals, on set, on location and in the edit.

16.20

PRACTICAL EXERCISE:

Swap pitches and suggest one minor change and how this affects the essence of the story.

16.40

FINAL DISCUSSION:

Final tips from published writers/adapters. Pre-recorded interviews, revealing the best/worst experiences they’ve had. Solid advice for upcoming writers/adapters.

END