

METHOD WRITING: LESSON PLAN

A.M.

1) Introduction.

The cultural link between writing and performing. Homer, the oral poet; Shakespeare, the actor-playwright; and Charles Dickens, author, impresario and rock star. The three elements that writing and acting have in common.

Exercise: basic relaxation, geared towards negative capability.

2) Emotional memory.

How Stanislavski's System arose in response to the realism movement in theatre. The invention of cinema. Why a rift arose in the way Method acting was taught, between those in favour of emotional memory and those against.

Exercise: Strasberg's emotional memory, tailored to work in progress.

3) Iceberg Theory.

The forerunners of Method among actors. The forerunners of Method among writers. Three ways in which Ernest Hemingway anticipated Method Writing. His Iceberg Theory of writing as set out in *Death in the Afternoon*.

Exercise: character biog-writing and group short-story reading.

P.M.

4) Immersion.

From Stanislavski to you, via Brando and Day-Lewis.

Exercise: living in character, with secondary biog-writing exercises.

5) Disinhibition.

From Meisner to you, via Burroughs and Kerouac.

Exercise: kick-writing, in character, with emphasis on plot problems.

6) An introduction to Macy and Mamet's Practical Aesthetics.