

# Life As Playwright Survival Guide

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## Chapter 1: The Playwright's Journey

The journey of a playwright is a unique and challenging one. It is a path filled with both triumphs and setbacks, but it is also a path that can be incredibly rewarding.



### Life as a Playwright: A Survival Guide by Rita Goldberg

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In this chapter, we will explore the different stages of a playwright's journey, from the initial inspiration to the final production. We will also discuss the challenges that playwrights face along the way, and offer tips on how to overcome them.

## **The Initial Inspiration**

The first step on the playwright's journey is the initial inspiration. This can come from a variety of sources, such as a personal experience, a news story, or a historical event.

Once you have an idea for a play, it is important to develop it into a strong and viable story. This involves doing research, creating characters, and developing a plot.

## **Writing the Play**

Once you have a strong story, you can begin writing the play. This is a challenging but rewarding process that requires patience, dedication, and perseverance.

As you write, it is important to keep in mind the needs of your audience. What kind of story do they want to see? What kind of characters do they want to connect with?

## **Getting Your Work Produced**

Once you have finished writing your play, the next step is to get it produced. This can be a difficult process, but it is essential if you want to share your work with the world.

There are a number of ways to get your work produced, such as submitting it to playwriting contests, sending it to theatres, or producing it yourself.

## **The Business of Playwriting**

In addition to writing and producing plays, playwrights also need to be aware of the business side of the industry. This includes things like copyrighting your work, marketing your plays, and negotiating contracts.

Understanding the business of playwriting can help you protect your work and make a living from your writing.

## **The Playwright's Life**

The life of a playwright is not always easy, but it can be incredibly rewarding. Playwrights have the unique opportunity to share their stories and ideas with the world, and to make a difference in the lives of others.

If you are passionate about writing and have a story to tell, then the playwright's journey is one that you should consider.

## **Chapter 2: Finding Inspiration**

Inspiration can be found anywhere, but there are some things you can do to make it more likely to strike.

1. **Read.** Reading is one of the best ways to expose yourself to new ideas and spark your imagination. Read plays, novels, short stories, and anything else that interests you.
2. **Attend the theatre.** Seeing plays performed live can be a great way to get inspired. Pay attention to the stories, the characters, and the way

the plays are staged.

3. **Travel.** Travelling to new places can help you to see the world in a new way and to experience different cultures. This can be a great source of inspiration for your writing.
4. **Keep a journal.** Writing in a journal can help you to record your thoughts and ideas. This can be a valuable tool for generating inspiration for your plays.
5. **Talk to people.** Talking to people from all walks of life can help you to learn about different perspectives and experiences. This can be a great way to find new ideas for your writing.

## Exercises

1. Write a short story about a character you meet on the bus.
2. Create a monologue for a character who is struggling with a difficult decision.
3. Write a scene from a play set in a place you have never been to.

## Chapter 3: Writing the Play

Once you have an idea for a play, the next step is to start writing it. This can be a challenging but rewarding process.

Here are some tips for writing a play:

1. **Start with a strong story.** The most important element of any play is the story. Make sure your story is interesting, engaging, and has a clear conflict.



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