

## Course Title: 'Writing for Performance'

Dates: Wednesday 23rd October 2024 – Wednesday 11th December 2024

Course Duration: 8 Weeks (1 session per week, 3 hours per session)

Times: Wednesdays 6pm – 9pm

Location: TBC

Tutor: Ian Poitier

### Introduction to CAPAS

The Creative and Performing Arts School of The Bahamas (CAPAS) will begin to offer full-time, tertiary-level performing arts training from September 2025. Performance courses offered will include acting, dancing and singing. Creative courses offered will include writing, directing and producing. Technical courses offered will include animation, production design, costume, props, hair, make-up, lights, sound and camerawork.

As writing and storytelling are foundational to creating performances, this short course, 'Writing for Performance', is being offered in Autumn 2024, ahead of the full-time opening of CAPAS in September 2025. It is a pilot, and not part of the formal CAPAS programme.

### Course Overview

'Writing for Performance' is a dynamic and interactive course designed to explore the foundations of writing for radio, the stage, and the screen. Whether you're interested in crafting compelling plays, screenplays or librettos, this course will provide you with the basic tools and techniques to bring your ideas to life.

Over eight weeks, students will engage in a combination of lectures, demonstrations, discussions, writing exercises, and peer feedback sessions to develop their understanding and skills in writing for performance. Towards the end of the course, actors will be brought in so that students can see some of their work being performed.

By the end of the course, students will have written and developed a short script in their chosen medium.

**NB. There will be homework set between sessions. Students are expected to complete all assignments.**

### Course Objectives:

- Understand the fundamental principles of storytelling in performance contexts
- Develop characters, plots, scenes and dialogue suitable for radio, stage and screen
- Learn the structure and formatting specific to plays, screenplays, and librettos
- Explore the use of language, theme and emotional impact in performance writing
- Gain practical experience through writing exercises and collaborative workshops
- Receive constructive feedback on work-in-progress and learn how to rewrite

### Entry Requirements

- Minimum age is 18yrs old. There is no maximum age.
- You do not need to have extensive writing experience, but you should have a demonstrable interest in, and commitment to writing.
- This course is designed to offer a broad, skills-based training to those considering careers as writers.
- All those interested must apply via email, by attaching a sample of their writing (details below)
- Places are available for participants, as well as those who might wish to audit the course.

- The course is being offered free of charge.

## How to Apply

The deadline for submitting samples is at **midnight on Thursday October 17th, 2024.**

Please submit your application via email to: **[info@capasbahamas.com](mailto:info@capasbahamas.com)**

In the body of the email, please put the following contact information:

Your First and Last Names, Telephone Contact, Email Contact, and Title of your Writing Sample.

Please write one or two short paragraphs saying why you are considering a career as a writer.

Then please write a statement certifying that the sample is your original work. It could be something as simple as:  
*"I hereby certify that the script attached, 'Home Sweet Home' is an original piece of work, written by me".*

**NB. Any material found to have been generated by AI will be disqualified.**

**Please add as an attachment, a sample piece of your writing (please use Microsoft Word, Apple Pages or some other software in general use).**

- The title of your sample should be the same as the Title used in the body of the email (as above)
- The sample does not have to be a standalone work e.g. a full chapter, a full scene etc. It can be an extract.
- The sample should ideally be a play, radio-play or screenplay, between 2 - 5 pages long, following the formatting styles in general use by the industry.
- Speeches or general prose-writing 2-3 pages will be accepted.
- Poetry samples of 2-3 pages will be accepted. The work should have sufficiently obvious potential for performance.

This information is also available on the CAPAS website: **[www.capasbahamas.com](http://www.capasbahamas.com)**

## Course Weekly Breakdown [although may be subject to change]:

### Week 1: Introduction to Writing for Performance

Course overview

Introduction to Story & Storytelling

Exploration of 'Genres' and how to write them

How to generate fascinating and compelling story ideas

### Week 2: Structure & The Fundamentals of Storytelling

Importance of Conflict

Stories as Transformation

Story Structures

Loglines / Outlines / Treatments / Pitches

Script Formatting

### Week 3: Character Development

Building fascinating, complex characters: Wants & Needs

Creating Compelling Profiles

Developing Character Arcs: Goals, Motivations, and Obstacles.

Exploring Relationships: Characters in context

### Week 4: Plots, Scenes & Actions

The standard plots in the main genres

Developing character arcs through plots

Exploring Scene Structures

Dramatic Action

### Week 5: Writing Dialogue

The art of dialogue – natural vs. heightened language

Developing Subtext

Metaphor & Theme

Emotional impact

How dialogue differs across performance mediums

Wordsmithing

### Homework during the week:

Finalise short script

Individual 1-to-1 x 1hr sessions with Ian Poitier

### **Week 6: From the page to the stage and screen**

Moving writing into rehearsal and performance

Working with Actors, Directors, Producers and other Creative Partners

### **Week 7: Development & the Art of The Rewrite**

Tools for Script Development

Rewriting strategies

### **Week 8: Putting It All Together**

Final Presentations and Reflection

# ABOUT THE TUTOR

# IAN PÖITIER



Ian Poitier was born in The Bahamas. At 15yrs-old he left to continue his studies abroad, and was then based in the UK for 35 years. Since 2014, he has been based back in The Bahamas. He has worked across the cultural and creative industries in a number of roles, most of which include some form of storytelling practice.

After completing a law degree at Oxford, Ian Poitier trained in Musical Theatre at 'ArtsEd Schools', London. He went on to spend seven years acting, dancing, singing, choreographing and directing in the theatre. Whilst most of his career has been working as a freelancer, Ian has also worked on multi-year projects.

In 1992 he set up World AIDS Day at the National AIDS Trust. Under the patronage of HRH Diana, Princess of Wales, he headed the launch of the Red Ribbon as a symbol of AIDS Awareness in the UK and for two years co-ordinated events nationally, including the 'Concert of Hope' at Wembley Arena featuring George Michael, k d lang and Mick Hucknall. (1992) From 2003 – 2006, he was the Creative Industries Investment Manager at NESTA, the UK's 'National Endowment for Science, Technology & the Arts'.

From 2014 – 2017, having been invited by Prime Minister Christie to return to The Bahamas, he served as his Special Advisor, among other duties he wrote and directed several major national events, and published a strategy to develop the cultural infrastructure of the country.

Since 2021, Ian Poitier has served as 'Senior Speechwriter, Policy & Communications Advisor' to Prime Minister Davis. As part of his portfolio, he is leading the creation and development of CAPAS, the new 'Creative and Performing Arts School' of The Bahamas.

## Selected Career Highlights:

**Events:** Writer/Director/Choreographer of 'The Bahamas Cacique Awards' (2008 – 2017); Writer/Director Bahamas Independence Celebrations (2014 – 2017)

**Theatre:** Co-Writer/Director/Choreographer of the new stage musical comedy 'Legacy Falls' (London 2010, New York 2013).

**Film:** Writer/Director of romantic comedy feature film 'Oh Happy Day' (2006) (Worldwide Distributors: Ariztical Entertainment);

**Radio:** BBC Omnibus, Making Movies

**Advertising:** Award-winning campaigns for Levi's, Coca-Cola, Sky Television (BBH London); Ribena, United Bank of Switzerland (Grey London)

**Teaching:** University of The Arts, City University

**Current Writing Projects include:**

'House of Redeeming Love', Comedy Drama, TV Series. Production 2025. Production Company: Clerkenwell Films (makers of the global hit TV series, 'Baby Reindeer')

'A Very Civil Partnership', Comedy, Feature. In Development.

'Rum Business', Comedy Drama, TV Series. In Development.

**October 2024**