



CHRIS HEAD

COMEDY WRITING & SPEAKING COACH

“Their feedback is rolling in, with people saying how amazing it was, how it’s rare you get training you can put into effect from right now and that it would change not only their writing but other areas of his work too and that’s just after one day! They also said how brilliant you were in that they didn’t feel spoken at or “trained” more that you were imparting knowledge and information and giving them space to play around with it.” Jodie, The&Partnership

Quick & Funny: Comedy Writing Workshop

This session will reinvigorate and inspire your creatives. They will also leave with a powerful checklist for getting quickly into ideas that will grab the audience's attention and deliver.

The session is composed of analysis of comedy techniques alongside quick fire creative exercises.

* Ahead of the session, each participant sends me a link to something quick and funny. These can be anything that is, well, quick and funny. It could be an advert, a TV comedy sketch, a TikTok video, a bit of stand-up, a video of your dog... Then I incorporate a selection into the sessions to illustrate techniques we are working with. From this disparate range of quick and funny videos you we will identify fundamental techniques. For example:

- surprise, set-up/ payoff, misdirection, bathos, false dawns, rule-of-three, dramatic irony.

Using these techniques and more we’ll go through a series of quick fire writing exercises. We pick an everyday subject then work through a series of approaches to generating a comedic idea. This takes you through a sequence of steps including using questions as a springboard to creativity and also making a series of comedic alterations to the original premise. Your creatives will take away the list as a quick way to generate comedy ideas on any topic.

The session(s) can be at your offices, in an external training room or simply in the function room of a local pub.

FEE:

Full day (eg 10am-4pm) = £950

A half-day is also possible @ £500

Two days of sessions = £1800

Previous Comedy Writing Workshops for Creative People

I coach and mentor writers all the time. In terms of delivering workshops in organisations who have brought me in to address a specific brief. here are some examples:

HOUSE 337, in person: This advertising agency brought me in to deliver a one-day Quick & Funny workshop in the function room of their local pub! (12pm-6pm). Not only were the creatives happy to be in the pub, they also learned lots of new comedy techniques and left inspired.

THE&PARTNERSHIP, LONDON, in person: This agency brought me in to deliver two days of workshops for their creatives – and I delivered the above sessions plus a second day, learning comedy techniques and applying them in quick writing exercises. See the quote at the top.

PADDY POWER: Via Zoom The social media team's job is to come up with ideas for sports-related sketches, and while they had some naturally very funny people in the team, as a group they had never had any training in comedic writing. I did three sessions online with them looking at creating and structuring comedic pieces as well as the particular approaches to taking inspiration from real people and events in sport and making comedic ideas from them.

BBH: In person I have delivered two sessions at BBH, London. Firstly, I did a session for creatives on “sophisticated wit” which fed into a specific brief they had. We looked at the kind of witticisms from the likes of Oscar Wilde and Stephen Fry that have that kind of intelligence and sophistication and how to write in that style. More recently I worked with a group of trainee creatives on speaking and presenting using stand-up techniques and approaches (more on this below).

101, LONDON: In person: In its original 101 incarnation, I worked with a team of creatives on writing one-liner jokes looking at how to take inspiration from the news, pop culture and from language to create snappy gags. We also looked at how the techniques that underpin this kind of writing can inform any kind of message where being succinct, surprising and having impact is desired.

BBC WRITERSROOM: In person and via Zoom: I have delivered several workshops across the last few years for writers undergoing BBC training. Most recently I have delivered sessions on writing comedy drama - so looking at techniques and approaches to combining dramatic and comedic qualities in characterisation, action and storylines.

BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON: In person and via Zoom: I have delivered writing workshops for the British Library on a range of topics, including satirical and topical comedy, where the news and current affairs is used as a springboard to comedic jokes and sketches. And I have taught workshops in comedic prose looking at writing comedy dialogue and action for short stories, novels and memoirs.

“Working with Chris was an absolute pleasure. He built a bespoke two day course for our team that was practical and entertaining allowing them to put the tools and advice into practice straight away.” Stephen Corlett, MD, 180 Kingsday agency) Amsterdam

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