

Scene-Writing Workshop

[Scott Myers](#)

I'm reprising my one-week [Scene-Writing Workshop](#) which starts next Monday, April 12.

BLACK...

We hear a HIT. A drumstick against a drum head. Crisp, sharp.

Then a second hit. Then a third and a fourth. The hits growing so fast they start to blur together. Like gunfire...

INT. NASSAU BAND REHEARSAL STUDIO - GEHRING HALL - NIGHT 1

A cavernous space. Sound-proofed walls. And in the center, a DRUM SET. Seated at it, in a sweat-marked white T, eyes zeroed on his single-stroke roll, is ANDREW NEIMAN.

He's 19, slight, honors-student-skinny -- except for his arms, which have been built from years and years of drumming.

Suddenly -- a MAN enters the practice room. Stopping, rising--

ANDREW

Sorry... I'm -- I'm sorry--

MAN

It's ok. Stay there.

The MAN steps forward, removes his coat. He's tall. Late fifties. Black T-shirt, black slacks, black shoes. We'll know him as FLETCHER.

The room is silent now. And then, softly, as he's one of those people whose whisper can scare the crap out of you--

FLETCHER

What's your name?

ANDREW

Andrew Neiman, sir.

(It's pronounced "Nayman".)

FLETCHER

What year are you?

ANDREW

I'm a first-year, sir.

FLETCHER

You know who I am?

ANDREW

Yes...

FLETCHER

You know what I do?

If you figure the average scene is one-and-a half to two pages long and a feature length screenplay ranges from 90-120 pages, that means when you sit down to write a script, you are confronted with the prospect of handling

anywhere from sixty to ninety scenes. Looked at this way, it's fair to say the most basic act of screenwriting is *scene-writing*.

We start by asking this question: *"What is a scene?"* Here are two definitions:

"A division of a play or of an act of a play, usually representing what passes between certain of the actors in one place."

"A unit of action or a segment of a story in a play, motion picture, or television show."



Each of these offers elements we can use to construct some sense of how a screenwriter should think about the essence and function of scenes:

- *A division of a play / a unit of action / a segment of a story*: A scene is a piece of a larger story. In relation to screenplays, which are so much about structure [William Goldman, arguably the dean of contemporary screenwriters, wrote, "Screenplays are structure"], one way to look at a scene is as a **building block**. Each one stands alone as an individual entity, but the aggregation of these building blocks must be put together into a coherent form in order to constitute a complete story.
- *Representing what passes between certain of the actors*: Two things here. First, there are actors — **characters** — involved in a scene. Second, let's translate "what passes between" to mean this: **something happens**. For a scene to be a scene, some event or action must transpire, and typically this event or action is tied to what the characters do within the scene.
- *In one place*: In most cases, a scene occurs in a **single location**. Certainly there can be concurrent events happening in different locations, but for them to be part of a scene, what transpires in those other spots must be tied to the events and/or meaning of the primary scene location itself. If the action of a scene culminates and the location shifts to a different one, that almost certainly signifies the beginning of a new scene.

Therefore some key elements of a scene:

- They are a piece of a larger story
- They involve characters
- Something happens
- Most often a scene takes place in one location

This is the starting point of my **new** Screenwriting Master Class course: [Scene-Writing Workshop](#). In it:

- You will learn key scene-writing principles, techniques, and tips
- You will also have the opportunity to put them into practice by workshopping some of your own scenes

COURSE DETAILS

- Analyze great scenes from notable movies
- Download seven lectures written by Scott Myers
- Put theory into practice by writing and workshopping your own scenes
- 24/7 online forum Q&As moderated by instructor
- Pro insider writing tips
- A 90-minute live teleconference with instructor and

class members

WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE

Screenwriters, TV writers, novelists, playwrights, and anyone interested in upgrading their ability at writing scenes.

The ability to write scenes — not just any scenes, but *good* scenes — is a critical skill-set for anyone wishing to work as a writer in the film or TV business.

This brand new course will help you learn how to elevate your scene-writing abilities.

This one-week online class begins **Monday, April 12.**

Enroll now!

[Class: Scene-Writing Workshop](#)

Instructor: Scott Myers

Date: April 12, 2021

I look forward to the opportunity to work with you!

To learn more about the learning opportunities at Screenwriting Master Class, go [here](#).