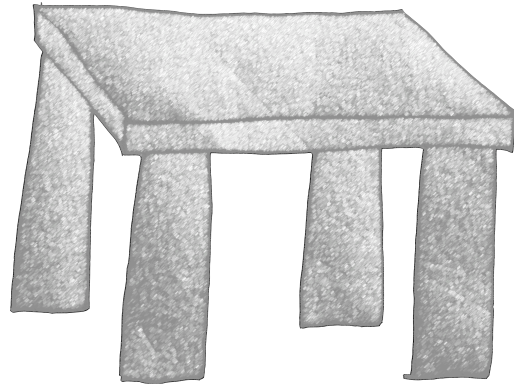


# 2015 PLAYWRIGHT MASTER CLASS

Athol Fugard says that playwriting is a craft: The playwright builds plays as a shipwright builds ships. Fugard likens creating a play to making a table – all four legs need to be solid so that the piece stands firmly on its own.



This 2015 Playwright Master Class will focus on the *craft of playwriting*, sharing time-tested techniques for creating solid structure, drama, character and dialogue. Through the course, students will master four essential pillars on which to build any great play.

## COURSE DESIGN

### Introductory Session:

- The seven elements of great storytelling
- A common language: Acts, Scenes, Beats
- Introduction to the four techniques of playwriting

### Session One: Structure

- The power of genre (choose wisely!)
- The essence of Three-Act Structure and the Five-Act variant

### Session Two: Drama

- The essentials of protagonists and antagonists
- The essence (and necessity) of external and internal drama

### Session Three: Character

- Character crosses: Creating three-dimensional characters
- The drama triangle and how to generate life

### Session Four: Dialogue

- The four key types of dialogue
- Breaking the Fourth Wall
- Great dialogue: Secret messages

**Ongoing Throughout:** Exercises to practice writing dangerously and writing the truth.

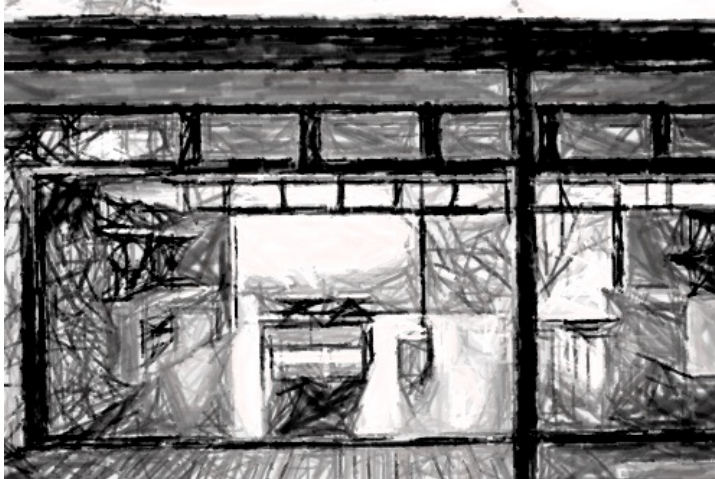
**For more information:** Alex Burger [alex@alexburgerart.com](mailto:alex@alexburgerart.com)

## COURSE DETAILS

**Schedule:** Introductory Meeting (6-9:00 pm): Wednesday, **21 January**  
Saturday Sessions (1-5:00 pm): **24, 31 January and 7, 14 February**

**Format:** Class mini-lectures, discussions, and writing exercises  
At-home readings of plays, theory and writing assignments

**Location:** Westcliff, "The Glass House"



**Fee:** ZAR 950 for five classes

Fee includes a participant workbook with readings, theory, and exercises.  
Scholarships available.

### **Application Process:**

Class limited to 12 participants.

To apply, send a one-paragraph personal biography and a one-paragraph motivation for taking the class by the **22nd of December, 2014**.

Students requesting a scholarship should include an additional motivation.

### **Instructor Biography:**

Alex Burger is a playwright, screenwriter, and teacher with a professional background in issues of poverty and race. His newest play will premiere in 2015 starring Dorothy Anne Gould and Keketso Semoko. His play *Whose Blood* played to a fully sold-out run in London in 2011 and he won the 2010 Harvardwood award for his one-act play *Three-Fifths*. Alex is currently developing television content for Quizzical Pictures and is in discussion with Hollywood producers on a film and television project.

Alex teaches writing and Wits University and the Market Theatre Laboratory and is a judge for the South African Naledi Awards. Alex is a U.S. national who now makes Johannesburg his home. He is a former Vice President at AngloGold Ashanti. He holds an A.B. from Harvard University and an M.B.A. from INSEAD.