

WEEK 1: PLAYWRITING 1

- Welcome to the first of four videos on theatre-making
- I'm Ant Stones, Associate Playwright for GSC
- I've written many plays for GSC, including Alice in Wonderland, Robin Hood, Wind in the Willows

The Original Story

- The starting point for any adaptation is the original text.
- In this case, we're going to be looking at the Ugly Duckling
- We'll share some sneak peaks at our upcoming production of The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen
- You can find a reading of the original story on our website
- Here's a little taster, showing you how it begins...

READING: Original Story

- First reactions are really important
- As a playwright, you need to remember...
 - What stands out to you?
 - What excites you about this story?

The World

- For me, the first thing that stands out is the scale
- Ducks are small, so the world is massive to them
 - Reeds becomes like trees, a pond would be a lake, a lake an ocean
- It's also beautiful and green and sunny
- This is a fun and bright world

The Characters

- The second thing that stands out to me are the animals

- Sounds silly, but this instantly takes us to another world
- This is a world of cartoons and fables
 - We know it's going to be child-friendly story
- Animals have their own individual traits and associations...
- Wise owl, sneaky fox and so on
- There's a lot to play with
 - Can have a lot of fun with the characters

Over to you...

- At the end of every video, we're going to give you an exercise you can do at home
- By the end of the programme, you'll have everything you need to start writing your own version of the Ugly Duckling.
- First exercise is to... Create your world
 - What can your characters see?
 - Who lives there?
 - What does everyone do?
- Download the sheet from our website
- We'd love to see them, so share them with us and we'll get back to you.
 - We'll also share them on online
- Thanks very much. See you in Video 2