

## WEEK 3: PLAYWRITING 3

- Welcome to the third of our videos on theatre-making
  - Last time, we looked at some of the characters
  - This week, we'll be looking at journeys in the story

### The Journey

- All stories have a journey
  - This can be a literal one – one place to another
  - OR it can be personal journey – a discovery, learning
- In the case of the Ugly Duckling, there are both
  - They work together
- At the start, the duckling is on the lake on a sunny day
- At the end, he's far from home surrounded by ice
- At the beginning he dislikes himself – doesn't think he belongs
- At the end, he learns to like himself and finds new friends

### Danger

- Drama in a story comes for danger – the idea that it could all go wrong
- When the Ugly Duckling leaves home, he's alone
- Don't forget, he's small and young
  - This makes him vulnerable
- Every time he meets someone, he's at risk
- He's lucky that the old woman takes him in
  - She wants his eggs
  - But what will happen when she learns he can't lay eggs?
- Next we meet The Cat and Hen...

### Reading: The Cat and Hen

**Ugly Duckling:** In this house, it was clear that these two old ladies ruled the roost. They'd set their routine over many years.

**Audrey:** Tell me, chuck... Can you lay eggs?

**Ugly Duckling:** No.

**Audrey:** What did you say?

**Ugly Duckling:** I can't lay eggs. I'm a drake.

**Audrey:** You're a strange creature, but you don't look like a snake to me.

**Betty:** I thought snakes could lay eggs, Peg.

**Audrey:** What's wrong with his legs?

**Betty:** I don't know. Is there something wrong with your legs?

**Ugly Duckling:** My legs are fine. But I can't lay eggs.

**Betty:** Not to worry. I'm sure you can purr just fine.

**Ugly Duckling:** I've never really tried...

**Betty:** Well, a young lad like you can still make sparks with your fur.

**Ugly Duckling:** But I haven't got fur. I have feathers.

**Audrey:** What did he say?

**Betty:** He's complaining about the weather. He never saw the winter of '75.

**Ugly Duckling:** There is one thing... I can swim pretty well.

**Audrey:** What's that? Did you say you could sing?

**Betty:** No, Peg. He said he can swing.

**Ugly Duckling:** I didn't say either. I said I can swim.

**Betty:** Swimming! Pah.

**Audrey:** It'll be a month of Mondays before you catch one of us near water.

**Ugly Duckling:** But it's so refreshing. To feel the surface slip over your head as you dive to the bottom. There's nothing...

*Betty and Audrey giggle to themselves.*

**Ugly Duckling:** What is it? What's the joke?

**Audrey:** Oh, it's nothing.... You tell him, Betty.

**Betty:** You said 'bottom'!

**Ugly Duckling:** Of course... You heard that just fine.

**Audrey:** Oh no. We don't drink wine here.

**Ugly Duckling:** Perhaps I should just learn to make sparks.

- The Cat and Hen aren't dangerous in one sense
  - They're not threatening to hurt the duck physically
- But they risk hurting him emotionally
- The Ugly Duckling hoped he'd find friends
- When the Cat and Hen are mean to him, that hurts

### Adapting Characters

- All the extracts are taken from the current draft of our script
- Why did we change the Cat and Hen?
- First they're two female characters
  - This is simply down to casting.
  - We're planning on having 2 men and 2 women in our cast.
- Why did we make them old?
- Throughout the story we meet various characters and we want them all to have different flavours
- Also, making them old suggests they should be wise
- But they're silly and uninterested in the duck
  - This switch hurts the duckling more, because he'd hoped for better
- We've still got a while till the production – everything could change

### Over to you...

- Your third home exercise is to write a diary entry
- Choose one of the characters we've met...
  - One of the duck family
  - The Ugly Duckling
  - The Cat or Hen...
- Choose a day in their life and write a page of their diary
  - What did they do?
  - What did they think?
  - What did they feel?
- Download the sheet from our website
- We'd love to see them, so share them with us and we'll try to get back to you
  - We'll also share them on online
- Thanks for joining me. See you in Video 4