

### A Hands-On Development Workshop Designed by **Emmanuel Oberg** for



Oifig MEDIA na Gaillimhe / MEDIA Office Galway

May 2-7, 2022

(Draft schedule on the 16/02/22, dates & content might change)



#### What's In It for You?

We are delighted to offer Irish TV and film creative professionals our new hands-on workshop *The Rewrite Stuff: 12 Ways to a Stronger Series*, delivered in-person over six days. Should travel not be possible on the dates selected, the workshop will take place online using Zoom.

This module is an extension of our acclaimed TV Series <u>workshop</u>, which has been delivered successfully across Europe since 2019 and was recently adapted into a self-led <u>online course</u>.

Based on Oberg's innovative Story-Type Method®, this rewrite workshop builds on the tools and principles explored during the TV Series workshop / course and puts them into practice through an intensive process that tackles both the story design of an existing TV Series project and how to best pitch it and sell it.

"The Rewrite Stuff" is project-based, so eight to ten projects will be selected at least four weeks before the beginning of the workshop. The initial week uses one of the final topics in the course / workshop — "12 Ways to a Stronger Series" — as a framework to focus on twelve key areas of series design through project work. It ends with a series of individual meetings to define the aims of the rewrite. A follow-up online meeting within the next 12 weeks will be offered to assess the revised series and provide final feedback.

The aim of the workshop is to give each project a complete makeover. By the end of the first four days, participants will have a clearer understanding of their series design, they'll have received constructive feedback from their peers through group work led by Emmanuel Oberg and they'll have refined their pitch (both written and verbal). After the first series of individual meetings with Emmanuel immediately following that, they'll have a clear action plan for a rewrite. Then, after the meeting following their rewrite, they should have a project ready to go to market.

### Who can apply?

• **Development Teams** (writer / director / creator / showrunner / producer / story editor developing the same project). A team

- cannot apply without a project *and* the associated writer/creator. Min. 2, max. 5 applicants per team.
- "Solo" writers with a project who are happy to be paired with another solo writer for the duration of the main workshop (4 days). When working as a team, both writers will have read each other's project and will work on both projects during the project work sessions.

**Note 1**: Applicants must be available for the entire duration of the workshop (4 full days + 1.5 hour on day 5 or 6). They have to be happy to read 3-4 projects from other participants (each project being 15 pages max.) and willing to let their project be read by other participants. Non-disclosure agreements will be issued.

**Note 2**: Participants are expected to have attended our **TV Series Add-On** workshop or online Course, so that everyone speaks a common language during the workshop. Access to the self-led online course will be provided for selected participants who have not attended either (please see below).

### With Which Projects?

Applicants (solo writers or development teams) need to have a TV Series project with a treatment / bible / pitch deck describing the **whole series** (if limited) or at least the first season (if serial/procedural). This document should be **at most 15 pages long**.

Once selected, participants can also submit a draft of the pilot / first episode (max. 90 pages) before the workshop for feedback during individual meetings. Having a pilot ready isn't necessary to apply though.

Submitting an outline of each episode for the first season and arcs for futures seasons is welcome but not necessary as these can be added during or after the workshop.

Any series type (procedural, serial, anthological etc.) or genre is eligible, except non-fiction / documentaries.

### **Workshop Overview**

The workshop starts with a 'meet and greet' and a short introduction, immediately followed by a pitching session so that everyone gets to know all the other participants and their projects.

Emmanuel then introduces the first of the "12 Ways to a Stronger Series" (series type, story-type and genre) to the full group so that participants can start working on their own projects, either as a development team or as a pair of solo writers, while meetings led by Emmanuel take place to discuss projects in smaller groups (4-5 projects per group). Project work on the first topic is then debriefed with the full group at the end of day 1.

Over the next three days, project work continues on the remaining eleven topics, each session starting with a short brief and ending with a debrief with Emmanuel, before a final pitching session and conclusion at the end of day 4. Emmanuel remains available at all times to answer questions arising during project work on day 2, 3 and 4.

A series of individual project meetings with Emmanuel for each solo writer or development team will take place on days 5 and 6, to wrap things up and define an action plan for the rewrite of each project. A follow-up meeting will be held within 12 weeks to provide final assessment and feedback before the project goes to market.

Like the TV Series Workshop, this hands-on workshop puts a strong emphasis on each project **reaching the widest possible audience**, both at home and abroad, without limiting the filmmakers' creative freedom.

### Workshop Schedule:

# Day 1 – Monday, May 2nd (10:00 – 18:00) Meet and Greet, Pitching and Group Work

On the first day, after a short introduction, we'll have a first pitching session. This will be a short "elevator" pitch (up to 5 min. per project) in order for everyone to get to know each other, familiarise themselves with the projects and get feedback on their pitch. This session should take less than two hours.

After this first session, we'll briefly introduce the first topic that the participants are going to work on and we'll split the cohort in two groups who will all have read each other's treatment / bible / pitch deck (4-5 projects to discuss per group). Then we'll debrief topic 1.

Project Work: 1. series-type, story-type and genre (briefing, 15 minutes)

**Group Work (Group A)**: Feedback on projects from other participants, moderated by Emmanuel, while group B address topic 1 on their projects in small teams. This session should last around 2 hours.

**Group Work (Group B)**: Feedback on projects from other participants, moderated by Emmanuel, while group A address topic 1 on their projects in small teams. This session should last around 2 hours.

**Project Work**: 1. series-type, story-type and genre (**debriefing**, 15 minutes)

### Day 2 - Tuesday, May 3rd (10:00 - 18:00) Topics 2-5

On days 2-4, I will briefly introduce each of the remaining topics in a group session where participants can ask any questions they might have on the subject. They then go to work on that specific topic as a small team for one hour (Emmanuel available if/when needed), then we will debrief each topic as a group and answer any questions resulting from the work, before introducing the next topic.

Each project work session should take around 90 minutes in total.

Project Work: 2. M-Factor (What's At Stake?)

**Project Work**: 3. Theme (What is the Story About?)

Project Work: 4. Set-up / Story World

Project Work: 5. Fractal Aspect of Story Structure

### Day 3 (Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 - 18:00) Topics 6-9

Project Work: 6. Managing Conflict (Who Wants/Needs What and Why?)

**Project Work**: 7. Managing Information (Who Knows What When?)

Project Work: 8. Characters (Change, growth or steadfast?)

Project Work: 9. Antagonist or Catalyst? Who Is Pushing Your Protagonist?

### Day 4 (Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 - 18:00) Topics 10-12, Pitching and Conclusion

Project Work: 10. Time-Lock

Project Work: 11. Planting, Pay-Off and Visual Storytelling

Project Work: 12. Satisfying Ending

At the end of the day, we'll have a final pitching session (short "elevator" pitches up to 5 min. per project), as a way to get final feedback from the group on the revised pitch before we conclude the main part of the workshop.

### Days 5-6 (Friday-Saturday May 6-7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 - 18:00) Individual meetings

This first series of meetings with Emmanuel will be per project, with either a solo writer or all the members of a team.

We'll look at the strengths and weaknesses of the project and we'll define a clear action plan for the rewrite.

## Within 12 weeks Individual meetings

Participants can have a second individual meeting if a rewrite is ready within 12 weeks, should they want to. This second meeting will provide additional feedback for any final tweaking before going to market.