
2-week Masterclass Scriptwriting/ Storytelling, Summerschool Utrecht

Day-to-day schedule 2026

Course Leader: Bea de Visser
Location: HKU, Oudenoord 700, Utrecht
Date: 10 - 21 August 2026
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App: preferably Signal

Find your why and turn it into a story that sticks.

In this summerschool, you'll break through writer's block, sharpen your ideas through pitches, and discover the angles and perspectives that bring your story to life. Learn to craft authentic characters that keep audiences emotionally hooked, and explore how different audiovisual forms and tools can elevate your work.

Forget rigid rules, trust your voice, and own your perspective. There's always a way to tell your story—make it unmistakably yours.

- Throughout the course, participants are encouraged to experiment creatively with storytelling tools and narrative structures
- Constant emphasis on expanding the limits of form, imagination, and script development
- Encouragement to keep writing throughout the creative process
- Completion of the individual script, scene sequence, or other chosen format, depending on participant preference

Monday 10 aug

11:00 - 16:30 hours

- Getting acquainted with one another
- An overview of everyone's skills and capabilities
- Reviewing everyone's introductory writings
- Introduction to the structure of the two-week masterclass

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Review of the Reader Summer School 2026 materials
- Organizing and developing an effective writing workflow
- Transforming a strong idea into a workable script
- Overcoming the fear of the blank page
- Research methods and strategies for writers

Tuesday 11 aug

11:00 - 16:30

- Analytical discussion of a short film through the lens of scriptwriting, plot construction, and production trajectory

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Individual scriptwriting practice with a focus on plot development techniques
- Emphasis on sustained and consistent writing

Wednesday 12 aug

11:00 - 16:30

- Analytical discussion of a short film through the lens of scriptwriting,
- Exploring theme, conflict, and emotion in storytelling

Continued

Wednesday 12 aug

11:00 - 16:30

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Individual writing sessions emphasizing the integration of theme, conflict, and emotion in storytelling
- Participant-led discussions and peer exchange sessions

Thursday 13 aug

11:00 - 16:30

- Workshop on character mapping and protagonist development
- Creating authentic, emotionally resonant characters that give form to the story's central ideas
- Building a compelling main character of flesh and blood capable of carrying the story and embodying its themes
- Exploring character construction as a vehicle for narrative and emotional expression

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Individual work on script development with particular attention to character mapping, protagonist construction, and thematic embodiment within the narrative.

Friday 14 aug

11:00 - 16:30

- Independent scriptwriting sessions focused on the construction of antagonists and secondary characters, with attention to their narrative function and thematic significance
- Study of nine core character archetypes, including their narrative purpose, constructive traits, and potential flaws within dramatic storytelling

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Independent scriptwriting sessions focused on character mapping, the development of antagonistic forces, and the embodiment of thematic elements within the narrative, while incorporating at least one of the nine character types and its constructive or destructive characteristics.
- Participant-led discussions and peer exchange sessions

WEEKEND FREE

Monday 17 aug

11:00 - 16:30

- Reflective assessment addressing the question: "Where are we now?" and examining the individual support and development needed during the final four days of the program
- Workshop on storytelling structures and narrative perspective, focused on determining the most compelling voice through which the story can be told

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Individual writing sessions focused on exploring narrative structure, the narrator's voice, and the story's perspective
- Investigating tone of voice and the artistic statement emerging through the narrative
- Optional individual feedback and mentoring sessions with the course leader

Tuesday 18 aug

11:00 - 16:30

- The do's and don'ts of dialogue writing, with a focus on subtext
- Exploring what makes dialogue effective, memorable, and layered beneath the surface meaning
- Understanding how subtext shapes strong cinematic lines and "great film sentences"

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Individual writing exercises developing character dialogue that relies on subtext rather than explicit exposition

Wednesday 19 aug

11:00 - 16:30

- Two script case studies, with volunteers offering their work for reading and discussion
- Collaborative role allocation, including character and storyline interpretation by participants

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Individual writing exercises focused on further developing dialogue that relies on subtext rather than explicit exposition, building on insights gained from the two case studies earlier in the morning
- Optional individual feedback and mentoring sessions with the course leader

Thursday 20 aug

11:00 - 16:30

- Table readings of all scripts, followed by structured feedback rounds after each reading

LUNCH together with participants of other courses

- Concluding work on the individual project, whether script, scene sequence, or other format of choice, based on personal artistic intent

Friday 21 aug

10:00 - 13:00

- Final inter-course presentations and one of our scripts for a table reading,
- evaluation of the masterclass experience,
- and a closing goodbye session

With best wishes for an adventurous future, abundant with stories waiting to be discovered, told, and retold. Bea de Visser
