

Tips for Writing Radio Plays

1. Grab the audience from the start

Don't take too long to get started into the main action of the play. Radio Drama thrives on strong narratives, big questions, or tiny private moments. Whether you're writing a tragedy, a comedy or a play to change the world, get to the point fairly soon. Don't make the story too complicated with too many themes or the listener will get confused.

2. Say something that's important to you

Think what you are trying to tell the world. Why does your play matter? Should you write about an aspect of Wiltshire life you know better than anyone? If you want to write about an historical Wiltshire event, think about how you are going to tell the audience something new about it.

3. Even a two minute play should have a structure

Think about the beginning, middle and end of your play. Think about what will grab the audience in the first moments and then why they should keep listening. Then think about how the situation in your play develops or changes and then how it is resolved: if it is resolved! Use the element of surprise! Audiences need hooking into a story. What will keep them listening to the end?

4. Find the voice of each character

Each character should have their own individual speech mannerisms. Don't have them both speaking in your tone of voice.

5. Express your characters between dialogue and interaction

Think about how you can express character through dialogue and interaction with another character. If you want to say that Sam has a difficult relationship with her mother, write a scene where they have an argument.

6. Use three building blocks - speech, sound and silence

7. Express any visual elements in a subtle way

Help the audience imagine the story you are telling and the pictures you want them to see. Talk about the things characters are seeing if that's important.

8. Have fun!

If you enjoy writing your play, the chances are that other people will enjoy listening to it.