

March 25

## Theatrical Problem Solving – The Playwright

In this lesson, you will take on the role of a working playwright. You have written a play and are very proud of your work. You're in the process of having a play produced. The relationship between playwright and production is sometimes precarious – directors have been known to ban playwrights from rehearsals, actors have been known to change lines. The playwright must know when to advocate for their work and know when to let those involved with the production do their job.

**You are the playwright in the process of having a play produced.** How will you use creative thinking, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication to solve each problem?

*Write out your solutions to the following playwright problems.*

1. At the end of auditions, the director shares with you her choice for the main character. You disagree with her choice and feel it would hurt the play. What do you do and why?
2. A theatre with a great reputation and excellent production values says they want to do your play. But only if you make major changes to the end, which you disagree with. What do you do and why?
3. You arrive on opening night to find that an entire scene from your play has been cut and a character's lines have been rewritten. What do you do and why?
4. A small theatre with a small budget wants to premiere your play. They want to pay your way so you can be there at rehearsals. You also receive a call from a larger prominent theatre with a large budget wanting to premiere your play. There is no offer of bringing you in for rehearsals – they don't want you there at all. What do you do and why?
5. An actor comes to you with questions about his character. He wants to change some of his lines and has suggestions. What do you do and why?