

Theresa Rebeck session 11/17/21 ATT

E-mail:

12:45

During - COVID

= at first happy / daughter took a hit as a senior in hs/ moved to Vermont until mid summer
- Then got back to Ny and felt stressed politically

12:53

Wrote a play early in pandemic - the father figure is sort of trumpian / part of reason she was able to write that was political climate we are in

- did a film with friends iPhones and moved into clouds and then film was edited = utilizing the time during COVID
- Film is Technically interesting *got mics since Sound isn't good on iPhones
- Then went back to union as 'micro budget' and that was super hard - they wanted a lot of money
- Union sometimes throws obstacles in front of us
- Also wrote a play that will b with Danny Devito who is a hoarder that was inspired by environment

1pm

As for theatre during COVID - did some readings - Equity made things difficult

Must get unions to start supporting us -

1:03

Smash - how did you become producer?

More and more producer of her own projects

Justine has made things happen

You have to become "the little red hen ". It entails making a call and asking for things

- at primary stages I was put in charge of a public reading of a **Xmas carol** - she had to do it all
- Asked friend to do it and wanted money- actor balked , she said~ Maybe it is immoral for you not to be paid
- Then did a reading on Zoom- Realized if she combined this cast they would all want to work together and that worked

She Picks n chooses what to do for free now/ and there you go that is Producing

= when teaching playwriting she tells students to be ready to produce their own work,

1:10

Have something you believe in ! Call people who can help get you where you want the production to go

your Rolodex matters in producing. you want to b able to call your friends that can help make things happen and

Move the needle (that's an industry term we hear a lot)

1:15 how do you measure your relationships?

- Shared an example of a relationship with a CD who she sparingly goes back to for casting projects and another cd that worked for free and shed love to go back with a paid gig

With CDs making **personal connection** is important- not buy cookies - and connect with person at desk / a good connection

Be nice to everyone/ not just the casting person - that front desk person's opinion will ruminate through the office - they really care

Actors that stand out

- Raul is a highlight - passionate serious -
- Norbert Leo Butts - imbued- present - all his instincts at play / never in his head
- Julie White - has looseness and rides instincts - feels Theresa's writing is like surfing
- **She wants actors that feel forward motion stays in play**

Diff writers have diff styles

Confidence to get on the ride and Stay on the ride

- **Dylan & Becky baker**
- **Janet mcTeer**

She will approach actors delicately for readings and then wants to offer them the part - which many producer / writers don't do

1:28

How do you go from idea to script

Always a bit diff - she likes to carry it around for a bit- she doesn't love outlines - secret subject won't reveal itself this way

People should talk more about transitions - reasons for characters to leave the stage

- know generally what the Ending is
- First draft is a draft but it must get finished
- Sometimes scripts die, it just happens
- Give yourself several bullet points and do the one Easy thing - once it exists apart from you, then you gotta find a way to crawl back into it
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- 1:34
- **Writers block ?** Ha she claimed she's rarely had it.
- It's that psychology of other things
- There's something else going on - so you may need to get that thing that's bugging you about
- In tv no one cares
- She wanted to do crime drama - so she did

1:40

Character writing and casting - if can't find the actor

You need to relax around it - ask why - might be in writing

Story of friends play - many interested - many readings then used Jennifer Coolidge and she wasn't the character at all- but she made the play work. Defined the play.

Tv / film vs theatre for TR

Theatre is a singular voice / there is respect for writer

Tv/ film rewrites are part of that

Gender stuff goes on / not a real conscience driving the ship and she just couldn't accommodate that bc she had done so much theatre first .
She writes great dialogue so those rewrites in TV were not ok with her- don't touch her dialogue.

Great session