

Playwriting Exercise: Frankfurters and Fondue



Exercise One

- Start with an automatic writing exercise. Look at the picture for one minute, then turn it over and free write for two minutes. Write whatever comes into your head on to the page. The aim of the exercise is to keep writing for the entire time limit without stopping. If you have to go off topic to do so, that's fine.
- Next, answer the following questions.
 - Who is the host of this party?
 - What is the reason for the party?
 - Where is the party?
 - Are the others in the picture happy to be at this party? Why or why not?
 - Is this a good party? Why or why not?
- Write the inner monologue of one of the party goers. What are they thinking in the moment this picture was taken?
- Write a one page scene that takes place right before the picture was taken. Two of the party goers are in the middle of an argument. End the scene right at the moment the camera snaps the picture, what has to happen to go from the argument to the picture?



Exercise Two

- Examine the woman in this picture. This woman is getting ready for her party, none of the guests have arrived. Imagine that this is a very important party for this woman. It's a make or break moment. If the party goes well, her life will change.
- Based on the above scenario, answer the following questions:
 - Who is this woman? Give her a name, age, family, job.
 - What is the emotional state of this woman as she sets up for the party?
 - What is the make or break situation?
 - Who is coming to the party who could change her life?
 - What is the potential obstacle in the way of this being a successful party - there has to be one!
- Write a monologue for this character in the moments before the first party guests arrive. Keep in mind all the above details and don't forget to include that obstacle.