RRFC Quiz 4 Answers

Explain the problem with only "writing what you know". How will you, as the screenwriter, go about creating stories that exist outside your realm of experience?

 If we write only what we know, we end up pulling only from our life experiences. Most writers or people, if we are speaking more broadly, don’t have the opportunity to live the life of adventure. Most people don’t rob banks, go into outer space or are involved in erotic fantasies with millionaires.

Explain what makes a fantastical story believable.

 The setting of these fantastical stories has nothing to do with how believable they are. What makes stories believable is the character development. The drive and the motives that are at work behind the characters is what creates the link between characters and the audience and can bridge the gap between fantasy and a believable story.

What tools are needed to write "believable" characters?

 They need to have motivations to relate too. The audience needs to be able to look at the characters and see themselves going on the adventures. What they need is inner struggle, motivation and purpose.

How do you move a story idea beyond simple spectacle?

 You need to have several elements the story, it’s not only explosions and special effects.

What ingredients are necessary to create a compelling story?

 To create a compelling story, you need, ups and downs within your story. Your characters need to be compelling. Compelling characters are always going to have inner conflict while dealing with the outer conflict they have. They need to have big archs to get over or fail to get over. The story must revolve around a human need or desire.

Explain the difference between the "inner" and "outer" focus of a story

 Outer story is the part of the story that is understood easily. It’s what the characters say to one another, it’s how they interact and where they are. The inner story is how you arrange the parts of the story to keep the movement in the right direction and move the play in the direction of the same solution.

What is the biggest mistake beginning writers make? Why is it a problem?

 They want to write their screenplay like a novel, they focus to hard on every detail and are not willing to budge, the truth is, making a film is a collaboration.

What are the structural elements of a script?

Plot, place, character, time , dialogue and setting are all structural elements of a script, these elements have to be introduced in the right order so that the script can work the way it is supposed to.

Why is it important to predict Hollywood’s upcoming trends?

 In order to be successful it is important to not only analyze the trends and understand their success but do research on where the public has the most interest. If you can become a trendsetter.

Describe what a synopsis should entail.

What is "creative discipline? Why is it important?

 Creative Discipline is important because even if you have the best talent in the world or the best ideas are sitting at the tip of your pen, if you do not sit down and have the discipline to write 4 to 6 hours a day for six days out of the week then you will never get passed your early stages of writing.