

### HINTS AND TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL SCRIPT WRITING

When planning any piece of writing it is always easier to write about what you know or things that you understand and care about.

Whilst it may be inspired by other work you've seen or things you've read, try to make sure your work is original and entertaining.

#### CONSIDER:

- the audience you are writing for: are they adults, teens, children, friends, strangers etc?
- what you are trying to say: are you trying to explain something to them, get them to take action having seen your work or get them to buy something?
- are you trying to amuse or shock your audience, to make them laugh or cry?
- When and where is your script set? In one location, more than one, indoors, outdoors, at night, during the day?
- How many characters do you want to include (too many and it may be confusing)? Have a clear picture of them in your mind: who are they and what are they like?
- Make your characters believable: would they really **say** that, **do** that?
- The relationships between your characters: are they friends, do they dislike each other, have they known each other for a long time, are they the same age?
- Dialogue should be short and punchy. Every word used must be carefully considered to ensure that it adds to the telling of the storyline, provides information about a character and conveys the message you are putting across.

#### WHEN PLANNING AND WRITING A SCRIPT...

...there are other important elements to think about:

- A script needs to help the reader form a picture in their mind of what is happening. From this script, they must be able to imagine exactly what you want them to see.
- In writing a script you are writing for **visual** entertainment – throughout each scene, your audience needs to be **shown** the story.
- What are you trying to communicate to your audience in each scene? What do you want them to have learned about the story or characters?
- Make sure your script clearly indicates what sort of expression, emotion or mood your character should be displaying, and what actions they are taking.

#### FINALLY, ALWAYS CHECK YOUR FINISHED SCRIPT THROUGH:

- Does it make sense?
- Have you included every action/direction so that the reader understands what is happening?
- Get someone else to read it and ask for his or her comments.