

CHAPTER 2

Practicing The Joke Mine #1

1. SELECT A SETUP, THEN LIST THE ASSUMPTIONS

"What am I assuming about this statement?"

Setup: *"I drove through an exclusive neighborhood."*

Assumptions:

2. PICK A TARGET ASSUMPTION, AND IDENTIFY THE CONNECTOR

"What is the thing that caused me to make this target assumption?"

Target:

Connector:

3. LIST SOME REINTERPRETATIONS FOR THE CONNECTOR

"Other than the target, what other interpretations are there for my connector?"

Reinterpretations:

4. CHOOSE A REINTERPRETATION, AND COMPOSE A 2ND STORY

"Relative to the setup, what specific situation could explain my reinterpretation?"

Setup: *"I drove through an exclusive neighborhood."*

Reinterpretation:

2nd Story:

5. WRITE A PUNCH THAT EXPRESSES THE 2ND STORY

"In addition to the setup, what information is needed to communicate my 2nd story?"

Setup: *"I drove through an exclusive neighborhood."*

Punch:

Practicing The Joke Mine #2

1. SELECT A SETUP, THEN LIST THE ASSUMPTIONS

"What am I assuming about this statement?"

Setup: "I was stuck in a hospital for a week."

Assumptions:

2. PICK A TARGET ASSUMPTION, AND IDENTIFY THE CONNECTOR

"What is the thing that caused me to make this target assumption?"

Target:

Connector:

3. LIST SOME REINTERPRETATIONS FOR THE CONNECTOR

"Other than the target, what other interpretations are there for my connector?"

Reinterpretations:

4. CHOOSE A REINTERPRETATION, AND COMPOSE A 2ND STORY

"Relative to the setup, what specific situation could explain my reinterpretation?"

Setup: "I was stuck in a hospital for a week."

Reinterpretation:

2nd Story:

5. WRITE A PUNCH THAT EXPRESSES THE 2ND STORY

"In addition to the setup, what information is needed to communicate my 2nd story?"

Setup: "I was stuck in a hospital for a week."

Punch:

Practicing The Joke Mine #3

1. SELECT A SETUP, THEN LIST THE ASSUMPTIONS

"What am I assuming about this statement?"

Setup: "For Father's Day, I took my father out."

Assumptions:

2. PICK A TARGET ASSUMPTION, AND IDENTIFY THE CONNECTOR

"What is the thing that caused me to make this target assumption?"

Target:

Connector:

3. LIST SOME REINTERPRETATIONS FOR THE CONNECTOR

"Other than the target, what other interpretations are there for my connector?"

Reinterpretations:

4. CHOOSE A REINTERPRETATION, AND COMPOSE A 2ND STORY

"Relative to the setup, what specific situation could explain my reinterpretation?"

Setup: "For Father's Day, I took my father out."

Reinterpretation:

2nd Story:

5. WRITE A PUNCH THAT EXPRESSES THE 2ND STORY

"In addition to the setup, what information is needed to communicate my 2nd story?"

Setup: "For Father's Day, I took my father out."

Punch:

CHAPTER 3

Practicing The Joke Prospector (Long Form) The Joke Map

A. LIST SOME TOPICS (single subject - something wrong - no opinion)

"What are some things I consider wrong that I'm interested in talking about?"

B. SELECT ONE TOPIC AND MAKE AN ASSOCIATION LIST

"What are all the things I can think of that relate to my topic?"

Topic:

List:

C. CREATE SEVERAL PUNCH-PREMISES (smaller aspect - negative opinion - no example)

"What negative opinions do I have about some smaller aspects of my topic?"

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

D. FOR EACH PUNCH-PREMISE FORM A SETUP-PREMISE (opposite opinion)

"What's the opposite opinion to my chosen punch-premise?"

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

E. CHOOSE A SETUP-PREMISE AND WRITE A LIST OF SETUPS

"What are some examples or statements that express my setup-premise?"

Setup-Premise:

Setups:

The Joke Mine #1

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Reinterpretation:

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5. WRITE A PUNCH THAT EXPRESSES THE 2ND STORY

"In addition to the setup, what information is needed to communicate my 2nd story?"

Setup:

Punch:

The Joke Mine #2

1. SELECT A SETUP, THEN LIST THE ASSUMPTIONS

"What am I assuming about this statement?"

Setup:

Assumptions:

2. PICK A TARGET ASSUMPTION, AND IDENTIFY THE CONNECTOR

"What is the thing that caused me to make this target assumption?"

Target:

Connector:

3. LIST SOME REINTERPRETATIONS FOR THE CONNECTOR

"Other than the target, what other interpretations are there for my connector?"

Reinterpretations:

4. CHOOSE A REINTERPRETATION, AND COMPOSE A 2ND STORY

"Relative to the setup, what specific situation could explain my reinterpretation?"

Setup:

Reinterpretation:

2nd Story:

5. WRITE A PUNCH THAT EXPRESSES THE 2ND STORY

"In addition to the setup, what information is needed to communicate my 2nd story?"

Setup:

Punch:

The Joke Mine #3

1. SELECT A SETUP, THEN LIST THE ASSUMPTIONS

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4. CHOOSE A REINTERPRETATION, AND COMPOSE A 2ND STORY

"Relative to the setup, what specific situation could explain my reinterpretation?"

Setup:

Reinterpretation:

2nd Story:

5. WRITE A PUNCH THAT EXPRESSES THE 2ND STORY

"In addition to the setup, what information is needed to communicate my 2nd story?"

Setup:

Punch:

Practicing the Joke Prospector (Short Form)

Topic: (single subject - something wrong - no opinion)

Association List:

Punch-Premise: (smaller aspect - negative opinion - no example)

Setup-Premise: (opposite opinion)

Write some Setups, (examples of setup-premise)

Then Write the Punches: (shatter target assumption)

Setup:

Punch:

Setup:

Punch:

Setup:

Punch:

Setup:

Punch:

Setup:

Punch:

CHAPTER 6

Points of View (POVs) Exercise Form

Select an Argument:

- Between you and an adult human.
- The other adult must be a person you can portray.
- Argument done standing up and face to face (no phone).
- Have multiple issues.

Notes:

Round 1: Self POV Only

- Who are you arguing with?
- Where does this argument take place?
- What are you arguing about?
- Three or four minutes.
- Begin.

Notes:

Round 2: Character POV Only

- Choose a different voice and posture.
- Stand on the opposite side.
- Make the Character POV right from his or her perspective.
- Three or four minutes.
- Begin.

Notes:

Round 3: Self POV and Character POV

- Shift one step between POVs.
- For Character POV change your voice and posture.
- Allow the jokes to flow.
- Four or five minutes.
- Begin.

Notes:

Round 4: Self POV, Character POV, and Narrator POV

- Self POV and Character POV are staged between Narrator POV and audience.
- Narrator talks to the audience and sets the scene.
- Argue by shifting between Self and Character POV
- Five or six times pop out to Narrator POV and make remarks.
- Six to eight minutes.
- Begin.

Notes:

CHAPTER 8

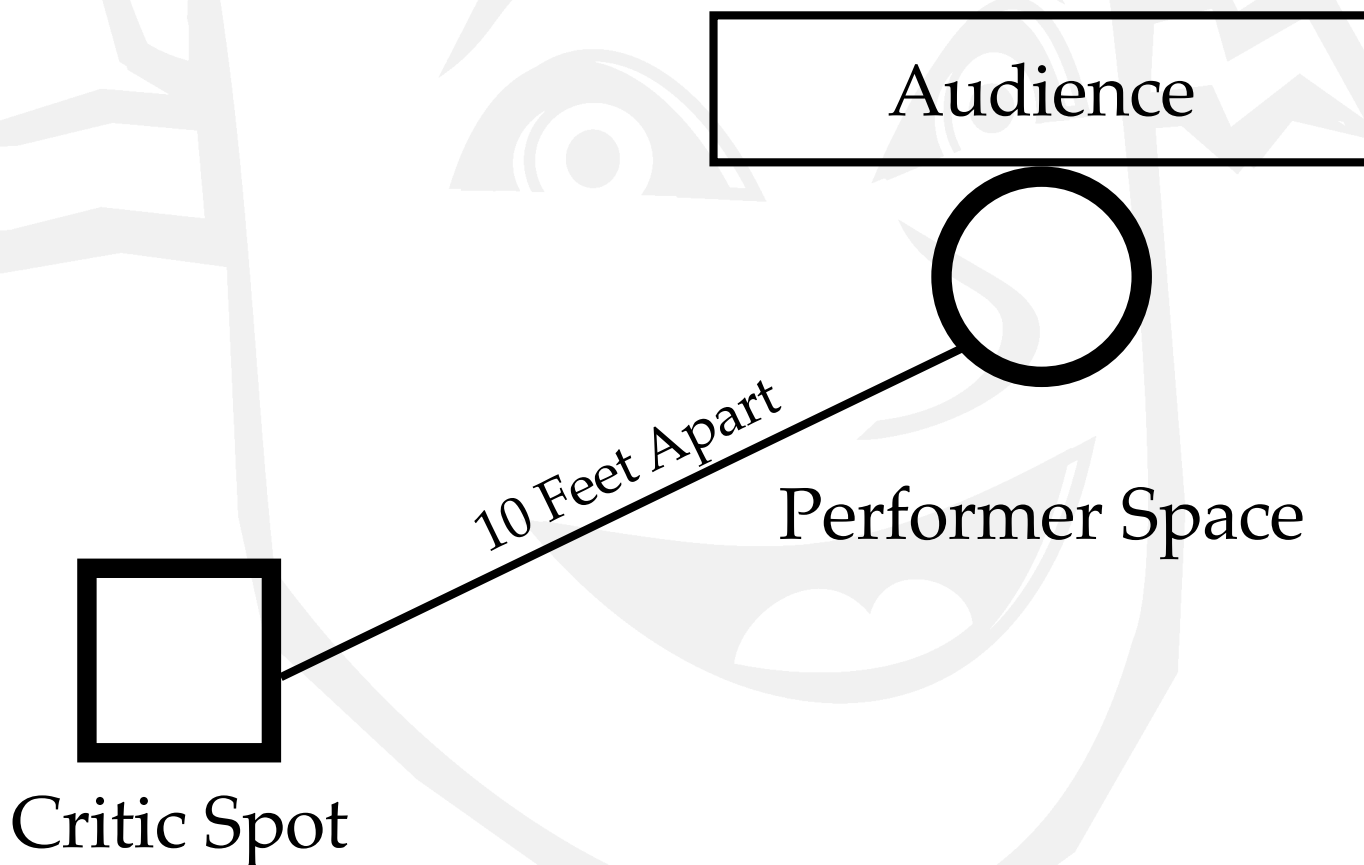
Rehearsal Process

Critic Spot and Rehearsal Space Location Sheets

To help you keep the Critic Spot and the Rehearsal Space separate, I've supplied, at the end of this chapter, a Critic Spot sheet and a Rehearsal Space sheet you can place on the floor whenever you rehearse. You must separate them by at least ten feet. The Rehearsal Space should face the location where your imagined audience will be seated. The Critic Spot must be set off to the left or right and a little behind the Rehearsal Space, at least ten feet apart. Think of the metaphor, we are setting the critic aside while rehearsing.

Important Note: You must never place your Critic Spot where the audience is located. If you do this, you'll be practicing with your critic in front of you watching you rehearse. Then when you perform, your Critic will be front row center. This is a very bad idea. We're trying to place the critic to the side out of the rehearsal and therefore the show.

The diagram below shows you how to set up your Rehearsal Process area.



Audience



Rehearsal Space



Critic Spot

Rehearsal Process Worksheet #1

PHASE ONE: PREPARATION

BEGIN BY DESIGNATING A CRITIC SPOT AND A REHEARSAL SPACE

☐ CHOOSE A JOKE OR ROUTINE TO REHEARSE

Joke: "Why do ballerinas dance on their toes? They should just get taller dancers."

☐ IDENTIFY THE EXPERIENCE THAT INSPIRED THE JOKE

"What experience would have happened in order for me to respond with this joke?"

☐ EXPLORE THE DETAILS OF THE EXPERIENCE

"Who is or is implied to be in this experience?" "Where is this experience taking place?"

☐ DECIDE HOW TO ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to enact this experience?"

PHASE TWO: ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

☐ PORTRAY SELF POV

"What role did I play within this experience?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I enact my role in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY CHARACTER POV

"How did other person(s) or thing(s) within this experience behave?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I portray Character POV in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY NARRATOR POV

"How do I want to describe what happened?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Have I played all of the POVs in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

PHASE THREE: PRACTICE PERFORMING

☐ DECIDE HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to portray the POVs to perform this joke?"

☐ PERFORM THE JOKE OR ROUTINE

☐ EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE

"Did I communicate the experience concisely and still keep the joke structure?"

Rehearsal Process Worksheet #2

PHASE ONE: PREPARATION

BEGIN BY DESIGNATING A CRITIC SPOT AND A REHEARSALSPACE

☐ CHOOSE A JOKE OR ROUTINE TO REHEARSE

Joke: "My horse was so slow...he won the next race."

☐ IDENTIFY THE EXPERIENCE THAT INSPIRED THE JOKE

"What experience would have happened in order for me to respond with this joke?"

☐ EXPLORE THE DETAILS OF THE EXPERIENCE

"Who is or is implied to be in this experience?" "Where is this experience taking place?"

☐ DECIDE HOW TO ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to enact this experience?"

PHASE TWO: ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

☐ PORTRAY SELF POV

"What role did I play within this experience?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I enact my role in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY CHARACTER POV

"How did other person(s) or thing(s) within this experience behave?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I portray Character POV in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY NARRATOR POV

"How do I want to describe what happened?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Have I played all of the POVs in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

PHASE THREE: PRACTICE PERFORMING

☐ DECIDE HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to portray the POVs to perform this joke?"

☐ PERFORM THE JOKE OR ROUTINE

☐ EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE

"Did I communicate the experience concisely and still keep the joke structure?"

Rehearsal Process Worksheet #3

PHASE ONE: PREPARATION

BEGIN BY DESIGNATING A CRITIC SPOT AND A REHEARSALSPACE

☐ CHOOSE A JOKE OR ROUTINE TO REHEARSE

Joke: "My wife says I'm 'nosy.' At least these what she keeps writing in her diary."

☐ IDENTIFY THE EXPERIENCE THAT INSPIRED THE JOKE

"What experience would have happened in order for me to respond with this joke?"

☐ EXPLORE THE DETAILS OF THE EXPERIENCE

"Who is or is implied to be in this experience?" "Where is this experience taking place?"

☐ DECIDE HOW TO ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to enact this experience?"

PHASE TWO: ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

☐ PORTRAY SELF POV

"What role did I play within this experience?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I enact my role in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY CHARACTER POV

"How did other person(s) or thing(s) within this experience behave?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I portray Character POV in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY NARRATOR POV

"How do I want to describe what happened?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Have I played all of the POVs in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

PHASE THREE: PRACTICE PERFORMING

☐ DECIDE HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to portray the POVs to perform this joke?"

☐ PERFORM THE JOKE OR ROUTINE

☐ EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE

"Did I communicate the experience concisely and still keep the joke structure?"

Rehearsal Process Worksheet #4

PHASE ONE: PREPARATION

BEGIN BY DESIGNATING A CRITIC SPOT AND A REHEARSALSPACE

☐ CHOOSE A JOKE OR ROUTINE TO REHEARSE

Joke: "I can't believe it. The other day I jogged backwards and gained eight pounds."

☐ IDENTIFY THE EXPERIENCE THAT INSPIRED THE JOKE

"What experience would have happened in order for me to respond with this joke?"

☐ EXPLORE THE DETAILS OF THE EXPERIENCE

"Who is or is implied to be in this experience?" "Where is this experience taking place?"

☐ DECIDE HOW TO ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to enact this experience?"

PHASE TWO: ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

☐ PORTRAY SELF POV

"What role did I play within this experience?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I enact my role in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY CHARACTER POV

"How did other person(s) or thing(s) within this experience behave?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I portray Character POV in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY NARRATOR POV

"How do I want to describe what happened?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Have I played all of the POVs in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

PHASE THREE: PRACTICE PERFORMING

☐ DECIDE HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to portray the POVs to perform this joke?"

☐ PERFORM THE JOKE OR ROUTINE

☐ EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE

"Did I communicate the experience concisely and still keep the joke structure?"

Rehearsal Process Worksheet #5

PHASE ONE: PREPARATION

BEGIN BY DESIGNATING A CRITIC SPOT AND A REHEARSAL SPACE

☐ CHOOSE A JOKE OR ROUTINE TO REHEARSE

Joke: "I'm a vegetarian not because I love animal but because I hate plants."

☐ IDENTIFY THE EXPERIENCE THAT INSPIRED THE JOKE

"What experience would have happened in order for me to respond with this joke?"

☐ EXPLORE THE DETAILS OF THE EXPERIENCE

"Who is or is implied to be in this experience?" "Where is this experience taking place?"

☐ DECIDE HOW TO ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to enact this experience?"

PHASE TWO: ENACT THE EXPERIENCE

☐ PORTRAY SELF POV

"What role did I play within this experience?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I enact my role in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY CHARACTER POV

"How did other person(s) or thing(s) within this experience behave?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Did I portray Character POV in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

☐ PORTRAY NARRATOR POV

"How do I want to describe what happened?"

☐ EVALUATE

"Have I played all of the POVs in a way that allows me to respond with this joke?"

PHASE THREE: PRACTICE PERFORMING

☐ DECIDE HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to portray the POVs to perform this joke?"

☐ PERFORM THE JOKE OR ROUTINE

☐ EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE

"Did I communicate the experience concisely and still keep the joke structure?"

Rehearsal Process Worksheet Template

PHASE ONE: PREPARATION

BEGIN BY DESIGNATING A CRITIC SPOT AND A REHEARSALSPACE

☐ CHOOSE A JOKE OR ROUTINE TO REHEARSE

Joke:

☐ IDENTIFY THE EXPERIENCE THAT INSPIRED THE JOKE

"What experience would have happened in order for me to respond with this joke?"

☐ EXPLORE THE DETAILS OF THE EXPERIENCE

"Who is or is implied to be in this experience?" "Where is this experience taking place?"

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PHASE THREE: PRACTICE PERFORMING

☐ DECIDE HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE EXPERIENCE

"How do I want to portray the POVs to perform this joke?"

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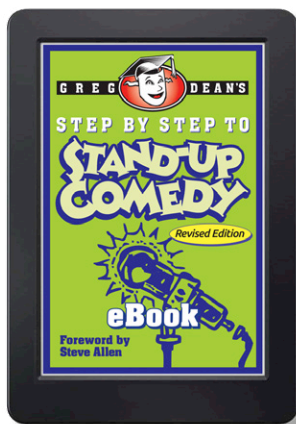
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Step by Step to Stand-Up Comedy



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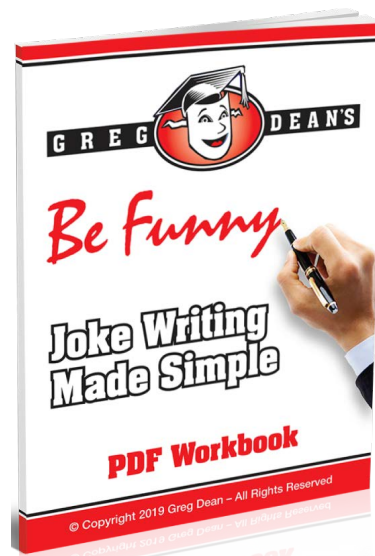


Audiobook

Step by Step to Stand-Up Comedy Workbook Series



Joke Writing Made Simple



OnDemand Course

1. How to Write Jokes
2. How to Improve Jokes and Routines
3. How to Remember Jokes Naturally
4. How to Be a Funny Performer
5. How to Get the Experienced to Be Funny

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