



Hello! Thank you so much for tuning in to Beckett's Babies. We are so happy that you joined us! Every episode, we love to attach a playwriting exercise that we think might be helpful so that you can go forth and start writing your own play! Below is a playwriting exercise from our most recent episode with playwright Tanuja Jagernauth. Check it out below and start writing!

Tanuja Jagernauth's Favorite Playwriting Exercise

Here is my favorite right now, and it comes from Kristiana Rae Colón:

Breathe. Get into your body. Imagine a world without police, without prisons. Visualize it. You can think of that on as small or as large of a scale as you want, so perhaps a globe without militaries, a nation without a block without squad cars, a county without a sheriff. A lot of communities already live within abolition. You don't see police patrolling Winnetka the way you do the South Side of Chicago, so abolition is not that far fetched of an idea for some as it may be for others. Imagine if all communities got to experience the absence of harassment, the absence of policing. What would that smell like? What would that sound like? What kind of conversations would you overhear in a world like that? In a community like that? In a block like that? Keep breathing and imagine what this would be like. Try to see yourself move through a world like that.

Make a list of 5 sounds that you conjure when you imagine a world without police.
Make a list of 5 smells you would encounter in this world.

Make a list of 5 textures or things you might feel on your skin.

Make a list of 5 things you might taste in this world. What do you wanna eat in a world without prisons and police?

Make a list of 5 people that you want with you in this world.

My addition to this exercise is this: write a scene that includes at least one thing from each of the lists.

About Tanuja Jagernauth

Tanuja is an Indo-Caribbean playwright, dramaturg, and ceramic artist who believes in the necessity of creation during times of destruction. A former acupuncturist, Tanuja aspires to practice four specific frameworks for collective liberation and wellness through theatre: self/community care, harm reduction, trauma-informed practice, and body positivity.

To learn more about Tanuja and her work, follow on Instagram @tanuja_devi

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