

## Dramaturgy Statement: Rebecca Lister

As a dramaturg I start by looking at four main areas/questions with the writer:

- **The world:** What is the world the writing is wanting to show? How are they doing that? Is it clear? Is there enough information for the audience to know where and what that world is? How does the world impact on the telling of the story? Does the audience receive enough information to be let into the world and is enough held back about the world so that the audience is leaning in to learn more?
- **Structure:** Does the structure of the work help the audience access the world? How does the structure hold the work together? How do the pieces of the world, narrative and structure all sit together? With the structure are elements such as the timeline of the work and the movement of the work through that timeline clear? Will the audience/reader know what is going on? Essential to both the world and the structure is whether the audience/playreader gets enough information or sign posting to enter the world and feel invested in what is taking place. How and when information is revealed is essential to both the creation of world/story and the structure.
- **Who:** Who are the characters? What do they want and why can't they get it? What are the barriers to characters getting what they want? How do we learn about the characters? Are we shown things or told things? What propels the characters forwards? Does the audience believe the characters? If it is a required outcome of the world, will audiences see themselves represented in the work?
- **Dialogue:** What is being said on stage and how does it impact the characters and move the story? How do we learn about characters and the story through what they say? And likewise, by what they don't say?

I'm also interested in asking writers:

Why now? Why are you writing/making this piece of work now? And is the timing of the work important?

Additionally, I am always led by the writer. I ask the questions: what do you want to get from a dramaturgical relationship? I invest in looking at what is working with a work and then work with the writer to identify the areas where things are not working as strongly. It's very important to me that the writer guides the process.