**Notes on Stage Directions and Scene Writing**

Stage directions are a way for the playwright or screenwriter to give information to the people putting on the play about how the scene should be created. These directions are not simply notes for the actors, but for the director and technical crew (lighting, costumes, makeup, scenery, etc.)

In a script, use stage directions for:

* Describing the setting
* Describing the people and what they are wearing
* Describing the tone of voice actors should be using
* Describing any non-verbal cues for the actors (coughing, gestures, mannerisms)
* Describing any movement on the stage (walking, fighting, looking at things or people, etc.)

**Example:**

## Act I

Scene 1:

The scene: A high school cafeteria in a large suburban high school. Students are eating and talking and two students, Mac and Maisie, sit down at the table in the middle of the room. Mac is a tall, handsome, athletic senior with a football jacket on. Maisie is a cheerleader with blonde hair and a stuck-up air about her.

**Mac**: [begins eating his hamburger and asks casually while he chews] So, did you get my email about that crazy email I got, about being the captain of the team?

**Maisie**: [looking around, then leans towards him, quietly, secretly, obviously excited and intense] Oh, my, god. I would kill for you to be able to be captain!