



YPIP

INTRODUCTION:
WHAT IS MY PLAY?




GREETINGS, **FELLOW PLAYWRIGHTS!**



Welcome to the Indiana Repertory Theatre's Young Playwrights in Process (YPiP) program! This series aims to help you with some basic information and helpful hints when it comes to writing your ten-minute play.

But first, click the link below and say hello to [Jessica Huang, IRT's Playwright-in-Residence!](#) She will be your friendly YPiP host, and has some tools to help you get started!



HOW DO I START?

It can feel difficult to figure out how and what to write at first. But you have to start somewhere!

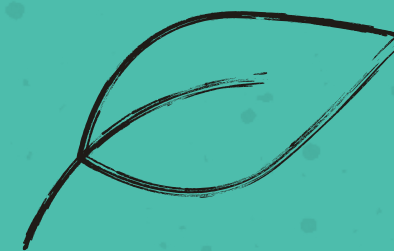
Have a dedicated place to collect your ideas: a notebook, the notes app on your phone, a moodboard on Pinterest.



Get inspired
by the world
around you!

IDEAS CAN COME FROM
ANYWHERE!

NATURE



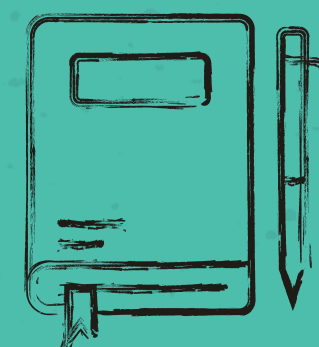
BOOKS



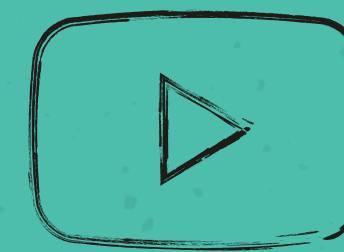
CONVERSATIONS



JOURNALING



YOUTUBE RESEARCH



DREAMS

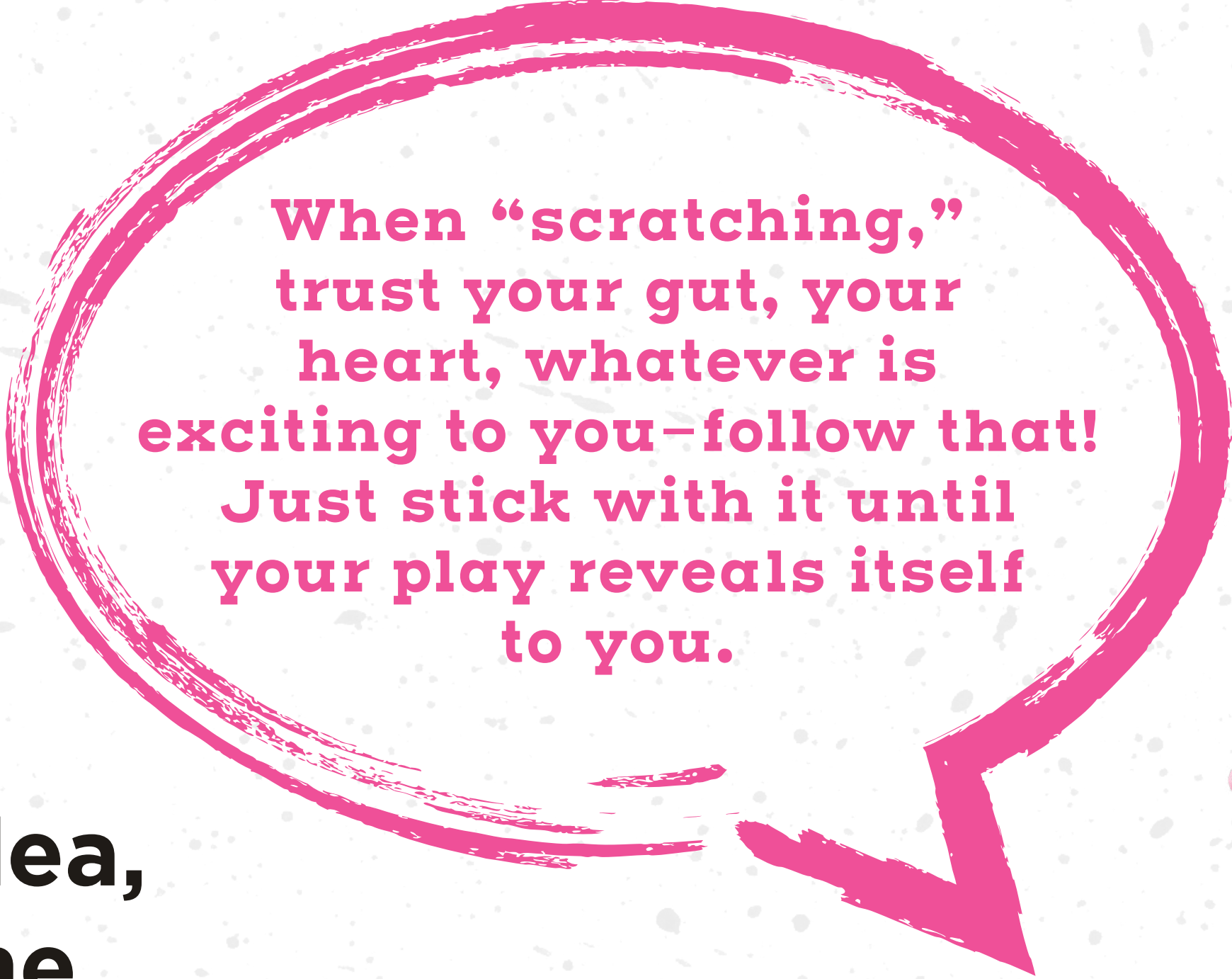


SCRATCHING

Any element of the story can be the first thing to take shape: themes, concepts, images, characters or lines of dialogue. Acclaimed dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp calls this initial phase of discovery: **“scratching.”**

[Check out what Twyla Tharp has to say about her creative process of “scratching”](#)

Once you have scratched at an idea, found a toehold, or discovered the beginnings of a thread, follow that thread! See where it goes!



**When “scratching,”
trust your gut, your
heart, whatever is
exciting to you—follow that!
Just stick with it until
your play reveals itself
to you.**



YPIP'S SIMPLE RULES

Start scratching for your ideas! There are just a few elements to remember when writing your play for YPiP.

These criteria are not meant to stifle your creativity; they are meant to measure the plays fairly!

1.

No more than four characters and no narrators.

2.

2000 word limit.
around 10 double-spaced pages or 10 minutes of performance time

3.

Original works only.
No adaptations of TV shows, movies, books, etc.

If you have any questions, you can email education@irtlive.com.

Happy creating, playwrights!