# SPOTTING MAYA Scene Analysis

**REVISED 2019** 



COLLECT AND OBSERVE FACTS - DELAY JUDGEMENT - TRY OUT SCENARIOS FIND A BEGINNING OF THE SCENE FORM A COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE DIALOGUE RESULT OF THE SCENE

ALL FACTS ARE FRIENDLY

### Immediate Circumstances

THE FACTS ABOUT RIGHT NOW Where are we and what is happening?

STATE THE OBVIOUS



The clarity, brevity, obviousness of this category is aimed at helping you focus on the specifics of now....
WHAT ARE GIVENS? WHAT CAN YOU DECIDE? Maitre'D? waiter? water glasses? menus's, wine, napkins..being seated? already seated? walking in? tasting and approving the wine? nature age sex of others present...waitstaff, customers...positioning of Maya

### Given Circumstances

THAT PERTAIN TO THIS SCENE

- long-time buddies
- miles is divorced
- jack is engaged
- wedding in a week
- miles is best man

**BOTH MEN SINGLE** 

- on a bachelor week in wine country
- miles is into wine and food
- jack isn't
- miles made the itinerary picked the restaurants has plans

• miles is a middle school teacher • miles is a novelist

- jack scoped out a waitress at breakfast
- jack said miles needs to get laid promised to make it happen
- miles said no



#### Launching a Marriage

- Two Best-Buddies out for a Send-off Dinner of Quality Cuisine
- To Toast the Success of the Momentous Step Jack is Taking

THIS IS NOT ONLY FACTUAL IT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE DIRECTION THE DIALOGUE WILL TAKE
THE WRITER HAS DETERMINED THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION – WE MUST DIRECT THE COUNTERVAILING ACTION (rather than micro-manage the words)

# Governing Social Obligations

RULES, RITUALS, CEREMONIES or BEHAVIORS, that the OCCASION, SETTING or RELATIONSHIP REQUIRE?

- Restaurant Decorum
- High-end Restaurant Decorum
- Special Occasion (celebration) Behavior
- Best Friend Obligations
- Best Man/Groom Obligations

#### **IMAGINARY FACTS**

MUST BE USEFUL MAY NOT CONTRADICT REAL FACTS

- Jack is picking up the tab for the food and wine
- Jack Has a Condom in his Wallet

## Imagine the MOMENT BEFORE

• They were shown to the table by a MALE MAITRE'D from whom Miles got a big greeting

the point is make SPECIFIC decisions - clearly something like this happened - it can be inferred...but you and the actors must KNOW

# Central Character's Objective

MILES WANTS....



NOTICE THE SELFISH NATURE OF THIS CHOICE - SELFISH IS GOOD -- SELFISH IS DRAMATIC - SELFISH IS FUNNY -

#### **OBSTACLES**

WHAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF MILES ACHIEVING HIS OBJECTIVES

- JACK'S DISINTEREST in the QUALITY of FOOD and WINE
- JACK'S ANTSY-NESS/RESTLESSNESS WITH PLANNED AGENDA

## THINKING BEYOND THE FRAME:

# HOPE MILES' BLUE SKIES SCENARIO FOR THE ENCOUNTER

- To be IN HIS OWN ELEMENT
- To be the STAR OF THE EVENING

### Miles' HIDDEN AGENDA

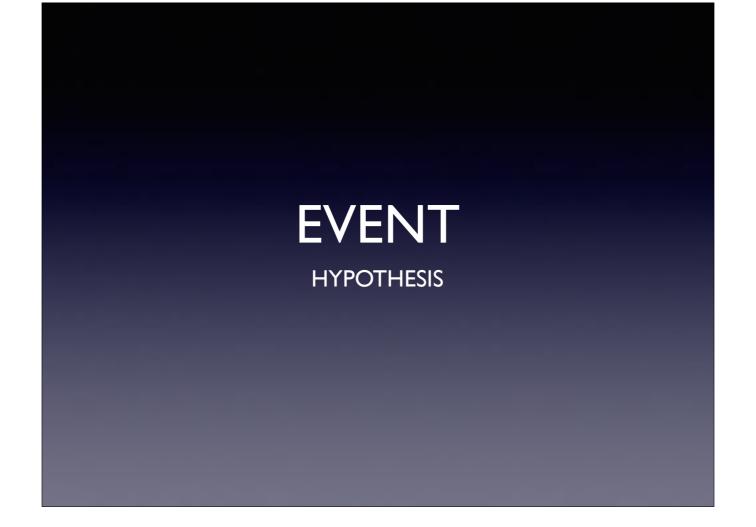
SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE SPOKEN

- GETTING HIS EPICURE ON ON JACK'S DIME
- TO SHOW JACK A WORLD WHERE MILES IS KNOWN AND RESPECTED

### Central Character's COVER

MILES' PLAUSIBLE DENIABILTY

- HE CHOSE THE ITINERARY FOR JACK'S MAXIMUM PRE-NUPTIAL PLEASURE
- HE'S HERE FOR JACK...IT'S JACK'S TRIP...HE THOUGHT THIS IS WHAT JACK WANTS



• A TINY (DANGEROUS) SPARK OF HOPE IS KINDLED IN MILES