

5 SONGWRITING TIPS

from Randy Klein

1

The Art Of Writing Is Re-Writing

Simply stated that you can always go back to an earlier draft of a song. But, rewriting allows the mind to experiment with ideas that usually improve the song. There's nothing to lose. You still have your beloved original draft.

2

One Subject Per Song

Songs can be about any subject: animals, sports, science, politics, social issues, people, products, events, and of course the subject of love. And the basic rule of thumb is a song should be about one subject. Why? Because the basic pop song form isn't very large, and for the most part can't handle more than one subject's worth of information. Too many words, not enough space.

3

Rhyme Hell

Rhyme Hell is where you go when you are trying to rhyme and can't make the rhyme match the thought of the lyric. Escaping from Rhyme Hell can be achieved by throwing out the rhyme. I wish there was a 'Get Out of Rhyme Hell FREE' card. Alas!

4

'ation'

There are thousands of words that end in 'ATION'. And there is something about the 'ation' ending that is infectious. Once we start using it, we can't stop. Ouch...I've been bitten again and without provocation. Its strangulation, without any stipulation, or a realization, for reclamation, not to neglect the mentioning of the quantity of commas needed for punctuation, I am feeling the suffocation, so I will make the transformation to inhalation and respiration, and I promise there will be a deviation from my using "ATION". My apologies for this affirmation.

5

Read Lyrics from Other Songwriters

Read the lyrics of other lyricists is an invaluable tool for learning how to write your own lyrics. The sources are many and there are numerous anthologies in print and online. Search for: Lyrics, Songwriter Anthologies, The Great American Songbook, Cole Porter, The Beatles, Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Ira Gershwin, Oscar Hammerstein II, John Prine, Bob Dylan, Stephen Sondheim, Carole King, Bjork, U2, Taylor Swift, Billy Eilish, et al.
(This list of song lyric sources and lyricists is merely a dot on the map.)

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