

How did your skit *Turning Around Sexism in Medicine* shape your writing career? How did that skit help build your writing skills?

I ended up doing all my pre-med and getting A's and being really discouraged by every pre-med advisor who said, "You'll never get in, you're a woman, you're too old," and then I applied and I got into medical school. So, I went to UCSF and there was a real problem of sexism in my school, but it wasn't just in my school. I experienced it in my interviews. Male doctors, I would say 99% of my medical school interviews were with male doctors, would come on to you and make snide comments

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to try and make you unstable during the interview. So, I ended up deciding to do a play about sexism and it really put me out on the edge of my class.

I bravely made an announcement in my medical school class that I wanted to hear people's stories about sexism and, you know, men in the class hissed at me but I had about twenty people stay after school and it was men and women. The men had stories too: what they had seen, how bad women had been treated. I took all the stories and I went home and wrote them into skits and I did it with their sex roles reversed so exactly what I was told occurred but with the women treating the men sexist.

Turning around Sexism in Medicine shaped my production of *Blue Ticket* by empowering me and directing me to get some writing skills over the many years in between projects. Those skills allowed me to really work with *Blue Ticket* until I thought I had something good enough to put out in the world.

What does the process of finishing a play look like? How do you ensure the play is ready for production?

You know there is an interesting thing about playwriting; I need the actors to show me what it is going to look like. I remember hearing from someone that visited Juneau, she was a New York playwright, and she said Tony Kushner would come into their acting classes and ask to see a scene and they would just do the scene for him.