

## Minutes from West Hartford Screenwriting Group 4/28/04 Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Scott Anderson  
Kevin Behan  
Liz Cipollina  
Cindy Drozd  
Don Hope  
Rick Johnston  
Tom Murphy  
June Neal  
Tessa O'Sullivan  
Steve Olechna

Note: I have phone numbers and email addresses for most of the attendees, but I didn't know if everyone wanted them published in this forum.

First off a big thanks to Scott and his friend Rick for coming to our kick off meeting! They obviously had a huge impact on the meeting. And also another big thanks to Joe Cadieux for reserving the room for us! You've been great – Joe!

Scott gave a--

### **Blueprint for future meetings:**

- Everyone write something for the meeting
- Start with treatments, scenes, or movie shorts (see assignment below)
- Everyone should email their work to the group prior to the meeting, the earlier the better and preferably in “pdf” format. To provide incentive, work will be reviewed in earliest received order. Note: there are free services to convert Word, text files to “pdf”. I installed freeware from [www.primopdf.com](http://www.primopdf.com) to convert this Word doc.
- Rotate moderator or elect one.
- Put someone in charge of meeting location and setting it up.
- Put someone in charge of snack detail – it was suggested that everyone possibly kick in a buck or two, that type of thing.
- Don't forget about the “meeting after” where the group hits a bar to bond and rap. Note: We met at Cosi's for hour after the meeting to rap and discuss the Noah Webster project.
- Come to the meeting prepared to give feedback.

### **Guidelines and expectations for reviewing and getting reviewed:**

- First, everyone should be prepared to give the log line, both the writer and all the readers

- Start every review with what you liked about it. Can be a character, aspect of scene
- Think of a movie that was similar so as to have model for comparison since films are more similar than dissimilar, recommend that the person go see that movie
- Five points to ask person about their script
  1. What's the story – a sentence – log line (if you don't know this, then you don't know your story)
  2. Why did you choose to write the story (shows your passion, used to make pitch)
  3. What's the theme – a topic like responsibility, happiness, the futility of hope
  4. What's the commercial genre – the market? western, comedy
  5. What do you hope to get out of the review?
- Then follow with clarification questions. After this, everyone tells the writer what they liked about the script
- After the round table, writer should identify common, repeated good points, i.e. if many of the readers find one character interesting consider expanding his or her role, identify problems too

### **Additional tips, notes:**

- Opening: Establish your genre visually and establish your character arcs
- Talk about movies that you've seen and what trends you're seeing
- Two types of stories we're going to write: Action story or character driven story, try writing something
- Talk with Joe about permanent location. Find a nearby restaurant, get a commitment from the restaurant.
- Horror movie being shot in Hartford. Try and get on the set. Volunteer.
- Keep a contact list. Liz will provide.

### **Next meeting:**

Wednesday May 26, 7-9 pm in Webster Hall (same room) – thanks again Joe!

### **Assignment!**

A movie short – everyone write 3 page short - one scene, no more than four characters.  
 Note: Typically a movie short is viewed as twenty minutes or less (twenty pages)

### **Suggested viewing:**

There were several mentioned but to name a few:  
 Sundance Channel – Anatomy of a scene  
 HBO – Project Greenlight  
 Famous short – Sombrero Fall?