

## Minutes from West Hartford Screenwriting Group 5/26/04 Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Jed Backus  
Liz Cipollina  
Cindy Drozd  
Don Hope  
Marc Miller  
Tom Murphy  
June Neal  
Tessa O'Sullivan  
Steve Olechna

**Moderator:** Tom Murphy

**Snack Provider:** Tessa O'Sullivan

### **Business:**

The general format of the meetings was tentatively determined.

---

7:00 - 7:15 – Announcements and Intros / personal log lines if there's a new member or guest

7:15 – 7:30 - Open Discussion on movies recently seen, trends...

7:30 – 8:45 – Discuss submissions in earliest received order

- Moderator runs through the five “Scott” points with the author
  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 do get out of the review?
- The floor is opened up for clarification questions
- Go around the room once so each reviewer can...
  1. Identify what they liked about the work
  2. Constructive criticism
  3. Suggestions, i.e. recommend seeing a movie with a similar theme

Note: Each reviewer should provide written notes to the author, so the author can compile the results / comments. This will also cut down on redundancy in the round table discussions.

8:45 – 9:00 – Wrap Up, decide on next meeting’s moderator, snack provider

---

Official name of the group will be either, “West Hartford Screenwriters Group” or “Greater Hartford Screenwriters Group”.

Meeting schedule: Joe has “unofficially” reserved Webster Hall for us at the library through 12/04 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month (does this work for everyone?). Note: August and October we’ll meet in a different room.

Create our own distribution list to alleviate attachment problems and control access to our scripts.

Liz will use the Screenwriter’s Bible for format verification.

## **Reviews!**

**Don Hope’s, “Santone”**

**Tom Murphy’s, “First and Last”**

## **Additional tips, notes:**

- Individual guests are welcome, but we should get a couple more meetings under our belt before opening our club up to the public. Hone our craft a bit to put our best foot forward. This includes inviting new guest speakers like Jack Lemmon’s son, Chris Lemmon, a screenwriter who lives in Glastonbury.
  - Volunteer to be on a movie set on a local production. Liz has a list for anyone interested.
  - Freeware from [www.primopdf.com](http://www.primopdf.com) to convert Word docs to pdf.
  - Trend: Disaster movies becoming more popular due to CGI.
  - Most of us went to Cosi’s after the meeting for a beer. Fun time!
- 

## **Next meeting:**

6/23 (4<sup>th</sup> Wed.) in Webster Hall West Hartford Library unless we change it to 6/30 (last Wed. of the month).

**Moderator: Steve Olechna**

**Snack Provider: ???** A personal note on this. I definitely appreciated Tessa bringing the snacks and drinks, but I wonder if it's a bit unwieldy to expect the person to provide the beverages too. The person doesn't know how people are showing, etc. Would it be better to expect people to bring their own?

**Review Order (as of 5/31)**

Tom Murphy "First and Last" (Finish from last meeting)

Liz Cipollina "Valuables"

Steve Olechna "Rocket Away"

Please forward new submissions to the group, and I'll update the list.

---

**Current 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 / reading:**

There were several mentioned but to name a few:

Fog of War – won Oscar for best documentary

Sundance Channel – Anatomy of a scene

HBO – Project Greenlight

Famous short – Sombrero Fall?

---

Any changes, corrections, additions, please let me know.

Having a blast, hope you are too!

Steve