

Minutes from West Hartford Screenwriting Group 10/27/04 Meeting

Attendees:

June Neal
Mark Miller
Jacque Devlin
Liz Cipollina
Tom Murphy
Don Hope
Denning Powell
Cindy Drozd
Mark Miller
Jed Backus
Steve Olechna
Joe Cadieux
Peter Considine

Guests:

Thea Guidone
Howard Meyerowitz
Maria Sassi
Mabel Donnelly
Ashok Ratnaparkhi
Sandy Comlin

Absent:

If there's no objections, I'm not going to track this. It's difficult distinguishing between the one-time guest vs. member.

***** On a related note: a couple questions / issues for the group. *****

My plan is to continue to send out the minutes to the whole group. If you attended and put your name and email on the signup sheet, you'll start getting the minutes until you ask to be removed from the list. Because of this, and starting with this set of minutes, my notes on the reviews will be more generic / innocuous. I can understand that someone might be uncomfortable with me giving details of their work to the one-time guest, etc. Along those lines, since Joe C. has graciously offered to archive our meeting minutes on WH Library's site, I believe that I should remove contact information (Joe had mentioned this as well) and script details.

Note: I will continue to take notes during the reviews, but I'll just keep them in my notebook for possible reference in the future.

And one last point on this. How does everyone want to handle the distribution list for sending out scripts for review? Just leave it up the individual? When I have some free

time, I could compile a spreadsheet of everyone's attendance record to help members on that judgment call. Suggestions?

Moderator: June Neal – Great job!

Snack Provider: June Neal – Stellar job! Top notch! You can cater my parties anytime!

Scribe: Steve Olechna

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

Lots of guests!

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

Tripeg Studios – in Hamden

Scriptsales.com – Great Resource list

7:30 – 8:45 – Reviews!

Jacque Devlin, “?”

Nice job, Jacque!

Interesting how observations in life inspired your work. Great people out there limited by that one chink in their armor.

Subject resonated with the group with the whole room weighing in.

Look forward to future submissions!

Peter Considine, “The Ballad of Chuck Atlas”

Fantastic log line! Really rocked the group!

Again, it's great how the writer draws on personal experiences in his or her work.

It will be interesting on how you decide to work the flashback and comedic angle.

Great job, Pete! Look forward to your next rewrite!

8:45 – 9:00 – Wrap Up

Again – June great job with the moderating and “The Spread”.

Friendly reminder to all: need to wrap up sooner so we don't push past 9:00.

Next meeting:

12/1/04 in Webster Hall West Hartford Library – assuming Joe can get the room.
12/15/04 in Webster Hall West Hartford Library – assuming Joe can get the room.

Moderator: Tessa O’Sullivan
Snack Provider: Mark Miller

Tentative Agenda:

Review Order (as of 11/7)

Don Hope, “Santone”
Jacque
Peter

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

After hours:

- Many of us made it to Cosi’s after the meeting! Fun, fun time!

Suggested viewing / reading:

Archive:
Denning Powell’s www.monkeytrap.us
Read, “Rebel without a Crew”.
Fog of War – won Oscar for best documentary
Sundance Channel – Anatomy of a scene
HBO – Project Greenlight
Famous short – Sombrero Fall?

Two tools that I didn’t see below (though I am getting older so they might be there) are
<http://www.primopdf.com/>
and <http://www.script-o-rama.com/table.shtml>
The first converts Word or other documents to PDF and it’s free. The other is scripts, also free,
that
one can put in to even notepad to borrow format from for those with no formatting program.

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

Having a blast, hope you are too!

Steve

Guidelines for the group and meetings

Members submit (email) scripts to the group for review in either “pdf”, Word or text format. Originally we were focusing on short submissions (3-10 pages) which can be a movie short, a scene or two from a full length script, or a treatment (summary or outline), but we will now accept expanded submissions of several interconnected scenes or acts.

Important: Because this requires a greater time commitment of the reviewers, make sure this is your best work! The scripts are then reviewed by the group in earliest received order. When reviewing scripts, first focus on the positive and then offer the constructive. So the writer can compile the results, hand him or her your notes at the end of the meeting.

The moderator asks the writer five questions:

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?

Moderator polls the audience for clarification questions and then we go around room, so each reviewer can give their comments, again the positive before the constructive.