

Minutes from West Hartford Screenwriting Group 12/01/04 Meeting

Attendees:

Mark Miller
Jacquelin C. Devlin
Liz Cipollina
Tom Murphy
Don Hope
Denning Powell
Steve Olechna
Joe Cadieux
Peter Considine
Tessa O'Sullivan

Moderator: Tessa O'Sullivan

Snack Provider: Mark Miller

Scribe: Steve Olechna

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

Joe set up a new Yahoo group. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WHScreenwriters/>
Thanks, Joe. Also group picture postponed.

Denning's book sales going well. Another print run scheduled.

Steve working on his own documentary. Filming tentatively scheduled for 2/05. More details to follow shortly. On a somewhat related note: There's a two day acting workshop at Manchester Community College I've signed up for. If anyone else is interested.:

Manchester Community College
Continuing Education Division
Millkie's Acting Workshop - Course Ref # 31293
860-512-2800
Room V2127
Two days 12/26 -12/27
10:30 - 4:30
\$149.00
Bring a blank video tape

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

7:30 – 8:45 – Reviews!

Note: As I mentioned in the last minutes, I've scaled back on the review details since these minutes will be available for download from the web site.

Don Hope – “Santone”

What started out as a simple class assignment has grown and matured into a very promising script. Best of luck with it, Don! Look forward to the next installment.

Peter Considine – “The Ballad of Chuck Atlas”

Another great script. Each version gets funnier. Real commercial potential! Look forward to the next version!

8:45 – 9:00 – Wrap Up

Next meeting:

1/26/04 in Webster Hall West Hartford Library

Moderator: Don H.

Snack Provider: Liz C.

Tentative Agenda:

Review Order (as of 12/13)

Jackie Devlin

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

<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.

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?

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 to 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.