

Minutes from West Hartford Screenwriting Group 04/27/05 Meeting

Attendees:

Steve Olechna
Tom Murphy
Jacquelin Devlin
Steve Wass
Denning Powell
Jed Backus
Tessa O'Sullivan
Peter Considine
Cindy Drozd
Don Hope
Kevin Behan
Liz Cipollina
Rob Johnson
June Neal

New members / Guests:

Bob Frasco
Joe Vojt
Darryl Johnson
Meir Rinde

Hopefully I didn't miss anyone – not everyone signed the attendance sheet.

Moderator: Steve Olechna

Snack Provider: Tessa O'Sullivan

Scribe: Steve Olechna

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

Denning passed around an article from the NY Times – TV makes you smarter! Multiple story lines means you don't need to dumb down your story. Hill Street Blues pioneered the genre.

Jed Backus mentioned something about a possible reality series, but I didn't catch everything he said. Maybe next meeting he can give us an updated status.

Meir Rinde, a reporter from the Hartford Advocate interested in possibly doing a story about our group, arrived around 7:30 and stayed for about an hour. I sent him a follow up email asking him what he thought. He enjoyed himself, but for now the story is on hold. He'll keep in touch.

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

Announcements took us to 7:30.

7:30 – 8:45 – Reviews!

As I've stated before, I'm not going to go into detail recapping the reviews because the minutes are posted on the web, and some people might not want their work open to the public.

Liz Cipollina – “The Inverse” - Treatment

Genre: Buddy film, drama

Hope to get out of review: Basic idea, is this plausible?

Liz's treatment provoked a lively discussion. A good sign! She will submit five scenes shortly for review. Look forward to it Liz!

Jacque Devlin – “Pounds” – Completed Script

Jacque is ready to submit to festivals. Everyone is excited for her. She also submitted her work to a review service and they loved it, saying they especially loved the comedic elements. Good luck, Jacque!

8:45 – 9:00 – Wrap Up

Next meeting:

5/25/05 in Webster Hall West Hartford Library

Moderator: Liz Cipollina

Snack Provider: Cindy Drozd

Submissions as of 5/9/05

Steve Olechna – “Kirkland's Queue” script

solechna@snet.net

Denning Powell – “Monkey Trap” treatment

powelldenning@hotmail.com

I believe these are the only submissions so far. Please forward new submissions to the group. Guests / members, if you didn't receive a particular work for review and are interested, please email the author directly.

After hours:

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

Suggested viewing / reading:

Our Yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WHScreenwriters/>

Our Web page: www.filmrat.com/whscreenwriters.htm

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

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) work to the group for review in either the preferred Word / text format (so people can add their comments electronically) or "pdf" 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.

Note: It has been decided that the writer shouldn't respond to the constructive comments until everyone has had a chance to provide feedback.