

Minutes from West Hartford Screenwriting Group 05/25/05 Meeting

Attendees:

Steve Olechna
Joe Cadieux
Tom Murphy
Denning Powell
Tessa O'Sullivan
Liz Cipollina

New members / Guests:

Joe Vojt
Darryl Johnson
Dan Whitney
Steve Consolatti
Irene M. Askew
Wayne English
Lida Boynick

Moderator: Liz Cipollina

Snack Provider: Cindy Drozd

Scribe: Steve Olechna

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

Some people are not getting the minutes and submissions. Not sure why. But for those who I talked with, please respond back to me, so I know you received the minutes. Thanks.

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

Check out Amazon Theater at Amazon.com, click on “Do Geese See God?”

See the movie, “Crash”.

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.

Denning Powell - "Monkey Trap" - Treatment

Log line: Love triumphs over power.

Why: Novel written with movie in mind.

Genre: Sci-Fi, Thriller

Hope to get out of review: Denning met with an agent at a writer's conference and gave him this treatment. Wanted to know from the group: If you're a movie producer and given this treatment...

Everyone liked the write up. A couple useful suggestions offered up.

Good luck Denning!

Steve Olechna – "Kirkland's Queue" - 30 page Pilot Script for a Sci-Fi series

Genre: Sci-Fi, Drama, Comedy

Why: Working on a package deal with his epic poem, comic, and scripts.

Hope to get out of review: General comments, weaknesses?

Everyone liked it. A couple useful suggestions as well.

Tessa and Denning read the full script sent out Monday, so Steve owes them each a beer.

8:45 – 9:00 – Wrap Up

Liz suggested and it was agreed upon that one must attend one meeting before submitting material to the group. Might I add that he or she participate in at least one review as well?

Next meeting:

6/22/05 in different room in West Hartford Library (on the same floor across the hall)

Moderator: Denning Powell

Snack Provider: Steve Olechna

Submissions as of 5/29/05 (if you haven't received the script and want to review it, please contact the writer directly)

Steve Olechna – "Kirkland's Queue" feature script (update to be sent by 5/29)

I believe these are the only submissions so far. Please forward new submissions to the group.

After hours:

- Five of us made it to Cosi's after the meeting. I bought Tessa a beer. Denning couldn't make it, so I still owe him one.

Suggested viewing / reading:

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

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

Amazon Films: www.amazon.com

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: (writer should be prepared with answers to conserve time)

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.

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