

WEST HARTFORD SCREEN WRITERS GROUP / MINUTES

Meeting of: 7/27/05

Moderator: Joe Cadieux

Scribe: Denning Powell

Snacks: Tom Murphy

ATTENDEES:

Joe Cadieux

Denning Powell

Tom Murphy

Bonnie Enes (new attendee)

Rita Isaacson

Kevin Behan

Joe Vojt

Geoffrey Saunders

Darryl Johnson

Liz Cipollina

Steve Consolatti

June Neal

Jed Backus

Steve Olechna

INTROS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Late start due to storms. New attendee Bonnie Enes is poet laureate of South Windsor; also writes short fiction and screenplays.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

1. Joe C handed out 3-pg excerpts from the book "Writing Treatments That Sell". Key thrust of book is that salable treatments meet two criteria: Concept (a great idea with a WOW factor), and Castability (every major star in Hollywood will want the part). The book is available in WHPL.
2. Liz is presently working on a short film "Left Foot, Right Foot".
3. Steve C passed around a flyer for the Screenwriters Expo, to be held November 2005 in LA: <http://www.screenwritingexpo.com/>

REVIEW 1: **The Kiss, by Steve Consolatti (first ~30 pgs).**

Logline: Suffering heroine's goodness triumphs over political evil.

Why writing it: A trial balloon.

Theme: Political struggle of individual vs society using metaphysical metaphors.

Genre: Romantic drama with political underpinnings.

Wants from review: Feedback on both concept and writing.

Synopsis of group review: Concept is very viable, political metaphors embedded in metaphysical context -- could be set up as in Gulliver's Travels. Writing is excellent, and use of language would make a good novel if screenplay doesn't pan out. Some of the metaphysical concepts (chaos, fractals) are difficult to grasp, meaning either a limited

audience or a need to simplify. Some problems following the back-and-forth shifts between different perspectives/realities. Heroine's character development could be started a bit earlier.

REVIEW 2: The Lost Art of Love, by Joe Vojt (treatment plus first ~15 pgs).

Logline: Humans escape computer control and find love.

Why writing it: To explore possibilities inherent in future human/technology interface.

Theme: Human nature can't be restrained and will take risks in spite of consequences, and love will triumph over technology.

Genre: Sci fi.

Wants from review: Reaction to concept, mainly.

Synopsis of group review: Great concept -- could be an Adam-an-Eve-rebirth-of humanity mythos, or a story about computer-generated abstractions re-creating themselves. Either way, love re-blossoming and prevailing in a future sterile environment is a good concept -- an answer to 'Brave New World', maybe. The protagonists (xxx003 and xxx002, aka Mary and John) are identified by their full numbers for too long. The script reading aloud indicates the male protagonist is doing too much backgrounding narration for the story (should be shown by scene rather than expressed in dialog). The motivations of the protagonists (to escape the sterile environment) could be foreshadowed more explicitly.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, August 31, 2005, 7:00 PM, Webster Hall.

Moderator: Liz Cipollini

Snacks: Steve Consolatti

~DSP 7/29/05