

## WEST HARTFORD SCREEN WRITERS GROUP / MINUTES

**Meeting of:** 4/26/06

**Moderator:** Jed Backus

**Scribe:** Denning Powell

**Snacks:** Patrick Lee / Tessa O'Sullivan

### ATTENDEES:

Jed Backus

Tom Murphy

Geoffrey Saunders

Peter Schuster

Steve Olechna

Christine Pajor

Denning Powell

Tessa O'Sullivan

Jonathon Parizer

Steve Wass

Jacquelin Devlin

Sandy Greenberg

Joe Vojt

Adam Lanelerman (new)

Stefan Janis (new)

Patrick Lee

Ella Maydon

Kevin Behan

### INTROS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- (1) Brief recaps from those attending David Freeman's *Beyond Structure* workshop in NYC April 8-9.
- (2) The Writers Store ([www.writersstore.com](http://www.writersstore.com)) is a good place to pick up software and reference books. Final Draft v7.1 now available.
- (3) The library and the Webster Hall meeting room year-long shutdown related to Blue Back Square construction will begin this September. Joe Cadieux believes that the church next door will provide space for the group to meet, and will let us know next week.

### OPEN DISCUSSION:

- (1) The revised group "Constitution" was reviewed and commented on. General consensus, but a few changes have been made and a revised version is attached.
- (2) Some discussion about the format for sending out scripts for review. Preferred is Microsoft Word rtf format (which most folks have on their computers) or Acrobat pdf format (which has a downloadable free reader). No specific resolution or consensus.

### REVIEW 1: Pop-A-Wheelie (partial script) – Steve Olechna.

**Logline:** As three adult friends ride vintage muscle bikes to relive their childhood friendships, a nemesis from the past returns to renew an old grudge and challenge their harmony.

**Why writing it:** Wanted to do something light, not connected to any autobiographical experience.

**Theme:** Nostalgia for a simpler time.

**Genre:** Drama/comedy.

**Wants from review:** Entertaining? Move at a good clip? Formatting (as revised) okay?

**Synopsis of group review:** Great story concept and pacing. Strong interest in what's going to happen next and where the story is going, tension and foreboding is played well. Good characters – likeable, interesting, well-defined. The intergenerational relationships are well done. Maybe too much time/too many pages allocated to development of the secondary characters, will need to edit/pare down these characters in the final version to only what subtleties illuminate the main storyline.

**REVIEW 2: The Finish Line (complete draft script) – Jonathon Parizer.**

**Logline:** A young man struggles to come of age under the shadow of his dead brother, a heroic soldier.

**Why writing it:** To show a particular slice of life and its implications.

**Theme:** Redemption and the coming together of different classes of people.

**Genre:** Drama.

**Wants from review:** General feedback and impressions.

**Synopsis of group review:** Great concept and premise for the story. Characters and situations are realistically portrayed. The short/sharp dialog is great. General consensus: more scene changes and minor characters than the storyline needed or could support, which detracted from the second half. Suggestion made: start with the main character and then tell the backstory, but opinion was divided on this. A fair portion of the story seems cerebral, requiring dots to be connected mentally, so the script (or a movie) might need to target a specific audience.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, May 31, 2006, 7:00 PM, Webster Hall.

**Moderator:** Steve Olechna

**Snacks:** Liz Cipollina

**POST-GELAMEN:**

Usual suspects decamped to Cosi's afterwards. No fatalities reported.

~DSP 4/27/06 :-)