

WEST HARTFORD SCREEN WRITERS GROUP / MINUTES

Meeting of: 8/30/06

Moderator: Tessa O'Sullivan

Snacks: Jacque Devlin

Scribe: Denning Powell

ATTENDEES:

Geoff Saunders

Andrew Soltysik

Denning Powell

Jonathon Parizer

Darryl Johnson

Jacque Devlin

Cindy Drozd

Tessa O'Sullivan

Nancy Rossi

Valerie Utton

Steve Olechna

INTROS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(1) The West Hartford Main Library and its Webster Hall meeting room are shut down for about a year for the Blue Back Square construction project. The adjacent Congregational Church (next building north) will provide space for the Screenwriters group to meet during that period. The monthly meetings will remain at the same time (7-9 PM) on the last Wednesday of the month, and will be held in the church library. The church parking lot is accessed off Farmington Avenue, first right after the light. Parking is also available in front of the church on South Main Street.

(2) Jacque Devlin reports that the people at InkTip are still looking at her script *Pounds*, which she considers a good sign.

(3) Jonathan Parizer reports producer interest in several of his scripts.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

(1) Howard Meyerowitz presented an idea for a screenplay called *A Sunday Drive*, in which a new Connecticut production company has shown some interest. He's looking for a screenwriter. If interested call him at 860-233-6466.

REVIEW 1: *Birds of Killingworth*, by Jacque Devlin (full script).

Logline: A small town's schoolmaster fights a battle against ignorance as the town's bounty on birds creates an ecological disaster in the 1800's.

Why writing it: To convert a Longfellow poem into a movie.

Theme: Wisdom and good eventually triumph over ignorance and convention.

Genre: Drama.

Wants from review: Help with the logline; does the material work as a screenplay; do the characters and historical settings work?

Synopsis of group review: The concept is great, and resonates particularly with those sensitive to the unintended consequences of man's effects on the ecosystem. The story flows along nicely and the tension builds well. The dialog is realistic. The historical settings feel very real. The characters are well drawn and play off each other, with some opinion that the Deacon wasn't evil enough and some

opinion that the protagonist Jaret didn't have his story arc completed well enough, and thus that the denouement lacked a kick. Overall, a very promising concept and initial effort.

REVIEW 2: Monkey Trap, by Denning Powell (treatment).

Logline: Aliens invade the minds of two lovers, distort their perceptions of reality and pit them against each other in a battle to the death... while the fate of humanity hangs in the balance.

Why writing it: A book-to-movie conversion.

Theme: Love triumphs over power.

Genre: Metaphysical sci-fi thriller.

Wants from review: Is the treatment too long; is there any spot where the reader lost the thread?

Synopsis of group review: Great logline. Length at nine pages is fine, but suggest preparing a five-pager to keep on hand if an interested party wants a shorter summary. No lost threads. Mixed opinion on whether some of the thoughts should be quoted as speech for more clarity and impact. The ending should be expanded to include more of the dramatic content.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, September 27, 2006, 7:00 PM, Congregational Church Library.

Moderator: Steve Olechna

Snacks: Nancy Rossi

~DSP 9/3/06 :-)