

WEST HARTFORD SCREENWRITERS GROUP / MINUTES

Meeting of: 2/28/07

Moderator: Steve Olechna

Snacks: Jacque Devlin

Scribe: Denning Powell

ATTENDEES:

Geoff Saunders

Denning Powell

Tessa O'Sullivan

Rita Isaacson

Lida Boynick

Jacquelin Devlin

Steve Olechna

Cindy Drodz

Andrew Soltysik

Tom Murphy

Kevin Behan

Don Hope

INTROS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(1) Don Hope took some video footage (interviews) of attendees at the James Brown wake at the Apollo Theater -- about 15 60-second takes on a digital camera. Interviewees started off with NYC street faces then went to full expression as they started reminiscing.

(2) Cindy has been accepted to work with a mentor in the film business, through the auspices of *Women in Film*..

(3) Steve noted that Joe Cadieux set up very nice web recordings of Faxon poets reading from their materials.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None.

REVIEW 1: **Here Comes the Judge, by Lisa Boynick (Radio Script ~ 14 pgs, plus audio CD).**

Logline: An unreasonable judge has his mind changed in a surprising way.

Genre: Audio internet podcast.

Theme: The quality of mercy is not strained... there's always hope, even with a bloodthirsty judge.

Target Audience: Internet podcast audiences.

Why writing it: A project of the Radio Workshop Players.

Wants from review: Is there any potential for turning this into an animated adult short?

Synopsis of group review: General agreement on: (1) definite potential to expand into an animated short, also could be done with live actors; (2) it's clever and funny; (3) the concept should be pursued to see where it goes. Mixed opinions on: (1) rhyming and scansion -- some thought the rhythm a little broken, some liked it that way; (2) parts of the dialog didn't make sense to some, but some liked the nonsense. Suggestions for going forward: (1) could use more sound effects (as an audio) and more dramatic pauses in the dialog; (2) break up the long sections (i.e., judge) of dialog with interspersed comments from other parties.

REVIEW 2: Birds of Killingworth, by Jacque Devlin (full script, second draft ~ 104 pgs).

Logline: New England schoolmaster in the 1800's is pitted against townfolks who are unwittingly determined to bring on an ecological disaster.

Why writing it: Adaptation of a poem by Longfellow.

Theme: Love and wisdom eventually triumph over ignorance.

Genre: Historical drama/romance.

Wants from review: Does the narrator concept work? Were the problems with the initial draft fixed? Whose story is it?

Synopsis of group review: General agreement on: (1) scenes are very well done and evocative of that period; (2) the storylines are clear and the script reads cleanly; (3) the underlying parable (ecodisaster from ignorance) is pretty topical; (4) still not sure whose story it really is -- could be Jaret or Ephraim or Almira. Mixed opinions on: (1) Jaret's story arc lacking in FLBW (needs more expression of self-doubt, hurt, rejection, etc); (2) the device of Ephraim as narrator seems like a powerful way to tell the story, through a child's eyes, but there's not enough of it; (3) the evil preacher needs a little more oomph.

Suggestions for going forward: (1) try using more of Ephraim as narrator, maybe looking backward in time (both from what he experienced, and what he was told happened when he was in a coma) -- some similarity to *Hearts in Atlantis*; (2) possibly build more tension with the evil preacher going after Almira, which is his hidden reason for getting rid of Jaret; (3) build a few more wrinkles/surprises into the plot.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday March 28, 2007, 7:00 PM, West Hartford Senior Center. Nothing specified yet for the queue, but Liz is contemplating a presentation.

Moderator: Liz Cipollina

Snacks: Tessa O'Sullivan

~DSP 3/5/07 :-)