

## WEST HARTFORD SCREENWRITERS GROUP / MINUTES

**Meeting of:** 3/26/08

**Moderator:** Tom Murphy

**Snacks:** Doug Johnson

**Scribe:** Denning Powell

### ATTENDEES:

Liz Cipollina

Geoff Saunders

Tom Murphy

Denning Powell

Jacque Devlin

Valerie Utton

Doug Johnson

Steve Olechna

Eric Fleischmann

Joe Cadieux

Allan Vega (new/visitor)

**INTROS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (1) One visitor/prospective new member -- Allan Vega, who has a short on [www.youtube.com/dazodiak](http://www.youtube.com/dazodiak). (2) All those who brought a 1-page script for the amusement/consternation/edification of the WHScreenwriters holiday party in December need to get it to Steve Olechna for compilation and possibly bronzing; *this is the last call*.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** (1) Tom suggested minor corrections to the “constitution”; the group agreed to Joe making them on the website posted version. (2) David Freeman’s *Beyond Structure* screenwriting workshop is being offered again in NYC April 26-27. (3) Liz showed her “reel”; basically a resume on CD of qualifications in the film industry. (4) The group had a discussion on an exercise for the next meeting -- developing a film short to be put on the library website. Consensus was to give it a shot, with rules as follows:

- any interested member can submit a 3-page (~3 film minutes) script, to be filmed in the Main Library;
- send submissions to Joe Cadieux at [cadieux at westhartford.org](mailto:cadieux@westhartford.org), *not* to the group, and with the author’s name *not* on the script;
- submit on or before the morning of the next meeting (April 30);
- bring 15 copies to the meeting;
- material must be filmable by handheld vidcam (no special effects required, not too many actors, etc) and must be suitable for the public library website (i.e., no blood/gore, no full Monty, etc);
- scripts will be read at the April 30 meeting (one narrator and one reader per actor);
- a consensus winner will be selected by the group (authors will abstain from voting on their own script) based on both artistic content (story, drama, emotion) and practicality (filmability, resources required);
- the winning script will be filmed by ace cinematographer Joe Cadieux; other details (director, actors, 3rd key grip, etc) will be worked out as the script demands.

**REVIEW#1:** Jacque’s *Label It Final* (working title)

**Logline:** Every woman loves a makeover except when it's by two guys at the same time.

**Why writing it:** The muse pulled a sneak attack when she was sorting the mail.

**Theme:** Everybody wants to be loved for what they are.

**Genre:** Romantic comedy.

**Wants from review:** Is the premise believable? Do Zoe's confusion, ambivalence and lack of confidence ring true?

**Synopsis of group review:**

General agreement on: (1) Zoe was very well characterized, and her interaction with classroom kids was an especially effective foil for the store scenes. (2) Kevin needs to be more developed -- given more rooting interests and an explanation of why he won't allow himself to become a whole person. (3) The Charlie/Kevin relationship could be given a little more emotional depth, so that the childhood accident disclosed at the end has more impact (especially on Kevin's stunted emotional state). (4) The script flowed very well and was easy to read; easy to visualize as a movie. (5) The concept of scenes played out in a store's display window is absolutely brilliant. (6) The storylines all weaved together neatly, except that Charlie pairing with Charlotte at the end came out of nowhere; it needs to be foreshadowed better earlier in the script.

Mixed opinions on: (1) The script seemed to shift genre in the middle, from romcom to drama. (2) It's not quite clear what makes Kevin appealing to Zoe; it's buried in a reference to the store owner's intuitive feel for the normal woman's attire. (3) Charlie going absent at a key point in the script seemed like a discontinuity unless explained a bit better.

Suggestions for going forward: (1) Try to bring more romcom laughs into the second half of the script. (2) Have Charlie tell Kevin to get a life of his own and stop worrying about him. (3) Walk Kevin more slowly and conflictedly into his relationship with a serious woman (Zoe) as opposed to his dalliance with a fling (Camilla). (4) Flesh out the characters of Charlie and Kevin a bit more.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, April 30, 2008, 7:00 PM, West Hartford Public Library Main Branch, Board Room – Mezzanine Level). Manda may submit a short story to seek the group's feedback on whether it's got potential for a screenplay. The balance of the meeting will be the short-script readings and selection of the one to be filmed.

**Moderator:** Jacque Devlin

**Snacks:** Val Utton

~DSP 3/29/08 :-)