

## WEST HARTFORD SCREENWRITERS GROUP / MINUTES

**Meeting of:** 4/30/08

**Moderator:** Jacque Devlin

**Snacks:** Val Utton

**Scribe:** Denning Powell

### ATTENDEES:

Liz Cipollina

Manda Perrotti

Denning Powell

Jacque Devlin

Valerie Utton

Steve Olechna

Joe Cadieux

Darryl Johnson

Tessa O'Sullivan

Tom Murphy

Ginny Cooke (new/visitor)

Ken St. Onge (new/visitor)

**INTROS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (1) Two visitors/prospective new members -- Ken St. Onge branching out from a journalism background, and Ginny Cooke contemplating developing scripts for corporate training.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** (1) David Freeman had an interesting article (passed around) on the development of support characters in *Juno*. (2) General discussion to clarify the group process for reviewing and evaluating the 11 short library-based scripts submitted.

**REVIEW:** Manda's *Love and War* (short-story, reviewed as possible basis for future script)

**Logline:** N/A.

**Why writing it:** Considering the story as the basis for a screenplay.

**Theme:** Retribution.

**Genre:** Speculative fiction/drama.

**Wants from review:** Does the story make sense? Are there any parts missing? Would it make a viable movie? Any other helpful suggestions?

### Synopsis of group review:

General agreement on: (1) Story is more of an opening/background for a story than a story in itself, but it makes sense in that context. (2) The parts needed all seem to be there, but character growth and change and fulfillment would be the key to a successful script. (3) It could be a viable movie concept; *Terminator 2* and *Kill Bill* series were mentioned as instructive analogs. (4) A visible tattoo may be a bad thing for a clandestine operator to have.

Suggestions for going forward: (1) Figure out the heroine's story arc -- what defines her, what has to change, how she'll be tested, fail and ultimately succeed. (2) Outline/structure the rest of the story around that story arc.

**SHORT SCRIPT EVALUATIONS:** The balance of the meeting was devoted to the reading and evaluation of anonymously-submitted 3-page scripts (i.e., 3-minute movies to be shot in the Library). Eleven were submitted. Two of the submitters could not be present at the meeting. Each member of the group read and scored each script against three criteria: heart and soul (emotional appeal); mind (does it make sense); and practicability (movie produceability). The scores were tallied up and the top three scripts were given readings. Final selection of the script (or possibly two scripts) to be actually filmed was deferred pending additional scoring input (to be sent in from the two absent submitters), and some further discussion within the group about the rubber-meets-the-road logistics of actually turning a script into a short film.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 7:00 PM, West Hartford Public Library Main Branch, Meeting Room (on lower level). Nothing specific on the agenda or in the queue as yet.

**Moderator:** Tessa O'Sullivan

**Snacks:** Liz Cipollina

~DSP 5/1/08 :-)