

# FILM 15 OVERVIEW OF SCREEN WRITING COURSE 2009

Are you aged between 12 and 18?

Are you a budding film maker looking for ways to make your films even better?

Do you want to be a script writer but don't know how to begin?

Do you want to enhance your writing and story telling skills?

This September, professional screen writer Barry Simner will be running 3 scriptwriting workshops for students, aged 12 –18. This is a unique opportunity for you to get creative and to learn skills and tips from a professional who is working in the industry.

The workshops will run in Machynlleth at Ysgol Bro Ddyfi on Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm including one half hour break. The dates for the workshops are 12th, 19th, 26th September 2009.

The workshops cost £10 per session. If you are successful in getting a place on the course, we'll contact you and ask for a deposit to secure your place. **Don't send any money when you first apply.**

The Aim of the workshops will be to introduce budding script writers to the key elements of **STORY, CHARACTER** and **DIALOGUE**

## **September 12th/Workshop 1 – STORY**

The basis of any script, however short, is a good, strong story. But writing the story can be a hard slog. This workshop will give you practical advice on how to turn an IDEA into a STORY and a story into a PLOT – what screenwriters call a storyline. We'll be looking at ways of getting started, ways of structuring narrative in pictures and words and learning to ask the sort of questions which will help your idea to grow into something original.

## **September 19th/Workshop 2 – CHARACTER**

The characters in your story are probably what the audience will remember most. But what exactly is a 'character' ? Who are the people in your story? What are they like? What makes them tick? More importantly, why should we care about them?

This session will help you to answer these some of these questions and also help you to think about how character affects story and how story affects character.

## **September 26th /Workshop 3 - DIALOGUE**

Most writers enjoy writing dialogue but find it hard to explain how they do it.

This session will give you practical help in writing the sort of dramatic dialogue that sounds natural but is doing a lot more work than everyday speech. We'll be looking at examples of dramatic dialogue as well as learning to convey information, move the action forward and differentiate characters.

## OVERVIEW

Some people know what they think before they start writing. Other people like to find out what they think *by* writing. Whichever you prefer, you'll be wasting your time if you don't have a script before you pick up your camera. The script is the set of instructions that will tell you and everyone else what is going to on.

But writing a script isn't like any other kind of writing. It's creative but it's also practical. It has to tell an actor the story, describe the characters, contain everything they say and do AND tell the cinematographer where to point the camera. And it has to jump off the page and make someone important say, "that's something I want to see – here's some money!"

Our three workshops will help you to think about, plan and write an irresistible script.

BARRY SIMNER has over twenty years experience writing TV drama. He has worked on many of our biggest shows including The Bill, The Vice, Midsomer Murders, Peak Practice and Holby City. He is currently writing new series for both ITV and BBC. 'Single-Handed', his series of three two-hour films set in Ireland, will be broadcast on ITV1 this August.

This will be a very special opportunity to get an insight in to Screen Writing from a seasoned professional.

We look forward to hearing from you all.

For more information please contact Nicola Biurgess at [Nicola@film15.org.uk](mailto:Nicola@film15.org.uk)

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### **NEW YOUNG SCREEN WRITERS AWARD**

The **Pink Snowball Awards** are a very exciting and popular film awards ceremony held annually in Machynlleth to recognize and celebrate the achievements of local film makers. This year a new **Young Screen Writers Award** will be launched. Entries are invited in the form of a 5 minute film script. Film 15 may decide to produce the winning film script in 2010.

The 2009 Pink Snowball Film Awards will be held in Machynlleth on Saturday October 24th.

# FILM 15 APPLICATION FOR SCREEN WRITING COURSE 2009

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE A MAXIMUM OF 20 PLACES **DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS 17TH JULY**. ENTRANTS MUST BE BETWEEN 12 AND 18 YEARS OLD. IF THERE ARE OVER 20 APPLICANTS WE WILL DRAW NAMES FROM A HAT.

## APPLICATION FORM

First Name .....

Surname .....

Full Address. ....

..... post code: .....

phone number: ..... mobile phone number: .....

Email address: ..... Date of birth: .....

Name of school you attend: .....

Please inform us of any health or behaviour issues that could affect your child while on this course. Including asthma, diabetes, dyslexia etc that we should be aware of and an emergency contact number should we need to seek medical advice.

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Please circle which dates you **will be** attending

**September 12th**

**September 19th**

**September 26th**

(Attendance at all workshops is not compulsory, although highly recommended, but if you can't come to all of them, it leaves a space for someone else to attend, so we'd like to know)

Signed ( parent if under 16) .....

Print name ..... Date: .....

Please return this form **no later than 17th July 2009** to Nicola Burgess at [nicola@film15.org.uk](mailto:nicola@film15.org.uk) or by post to the following address.

FILM 15  
c/o Nicola Burgess  
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