

COLLABORATORIVE WORKSHOP - (16 participants. 2 films to be made)

DAY ONE (Saturday 23rd May 2009, 9am to 5pm): Creating the story

How to come up with a story concept that works for a film?

How to watch successful films and learn how the stories were written.

Which stories work, which don't.

Why is a happy ending important. What are the successful exceptions?

Examples: DIE HARD, JAWS, TIN CAN HEART, JUNO

During the workshop, each participant will be prompted to give one story example from either a religious book and/or a tale from their own culture. All these stories will be analysed for their structure, to indicate how successful storytelling works across cultures and generations.

Assignment: The participants are asked to write down a story idea in one paragraph, which will be worked on during the second day with a view to selecting those stories with the greatest potential, or which are the most feasible in terms of production issues.

DAY TWO(Sunday 24th May 2009,9am to 5pm): Building the Characters

Each great story is a journey, seen from the perspective of one character.

What to show of a character and when to show it: the hero's strengths and weaknesses.

The difference between Character and Plot.

From STAR WARS and MAD MAX to Iron Man: The Hero's Journey Other examples: Groundhog Day, The Truman Show, Tsotsi, The Untouchables.

During the workshop, each of the participant's stories are assessed. The stories will be broken down to their most essential steps and the participants are asked to find similarities with stories they know from their own cultural or religious background.

After this, the group will cast an informed vote on which two or three stories will be turned into a film.

Assignment: The participants are asked to collaborate on the development of the winning stories.

DAY THREE (Saturday 30th May 2009,9am to 5pm): Writing a Winning Screenplay

How to write a script that reads well.

Writing great dialogue.

Free screenwriting programs.

The Screenplay Checklist.

Examples: Little Miss Sunshine, The Dark Knight, Wall-E, Slumdog Millionaire

From the two or three screenplays, one screenplay will be discussed as a 'case' during the workshop, so participants can apply the feedback to the screenplay they are working on.

Assignment: apply what was learned to each of the screenplays. All participants will also receive a CD-rom with screenwriting software, sample screenplays (All 4 above) and screenwriting tips.

DAY FOUR(Sunday 31st May 2009,9am to 5pm)Preparing the Production

The three big ones: Location, Cast and Crew.

Where to save and where to spend.

Free digital filmmaking tools and how to use them.

The no-budget movie.

Examples: The Blair Witch Project, The Dinner Party, AEROSOL.

After this workshop, the participants will walk away with specific tasks in terms of getting the production of their films under way. They will have a checklist of tasks to fulfil and meetings to schedule to discuss the pre-production and production of the film.

The films will be shot over the next few weeks (after day four of the workshop). Students will have access to camera and sound equipment as well as equipment to assist in the editing process (equipment will be supplied by various people from Canberra).

The students will have access via telephone/internet to the presenter, Karel Segers, for any guidance they may require while shooting their films.

DAY FIVE and SIX (Saturday 27th June 2009,9am to 5pm and Sunday 28th June 2009, 9am to 5pm) Editing

Participants will be guided through the editing process by industry professionals. Participants will have access to computers and editing software. Editing will take place at Silversun Productions in Canberra.