

## Screenwriting Workshop: The Nebraska Screenwriter

This year, we added a new category and award, for Best Screenplay, acknowledging the importance of the written word to the art of media making. A special screenwriting workshop is scheduled during the festival— on Saturday, August 9—open to entrants in the screenplay category and other interested individuals, focusing on the importance of the script, covering a variety of aspects on screenwriting. The finalists in the screenwriting competition are listed below:

### **FINALISTS** (7 scripts/writers)

*Johnny Pigskin* by J.T. O'Neal, Tom Carmody, Los Angeles, CA

*The Good Life* by William McCoy, Lincoln, NE

*Forty Days* by Shawn Watson, Omaha, NE

*Family Resemblance* by Danielle Wolff, Los Angeles, CA

*The Child Carrier* by Michael Comstock, Omaha, NE

*The Motherless Nanny* by Sheila Jenca, Los Angeles, CA

*Accidents Will Happen* by Jeff Davis, Beverly Hills, CA

### **Honorable Mention:**

*The Boarder* by Jane E. Ryan, Lincoln, NE

*The Booster Station* by Jill Robinson, Harrisburg, PA

*The Gray Mare* by Jack Young, Omaha, NE

Screenwriting Workshop Facilitators:

**Mark Hoeger:** Mark is a theater and motion picture producer/director with over 30 years of professional experience. His credits include 13 years as Executive Director of the Omaha Theater Company. Mark joined the financially struggling non-profit organization and turned it into one of the largest and most respected professional theaters for young audiences in the nation. Not only did Mark pay off all past debt but he operated the theater with a surplus in every year of his tenure. He supervised the raising of \$11.3 million for the renovation of the 46,000 sq. ft. Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center. He has produced and directed scores of commercial and entertainment film and video productions including three feature length productions. His film production honors include a Bronze Medal from the International Film Festival of the Americas and a student Academy Award nomination. Mark teaches film studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and at Oxford University in England.

**Andy Anderson:** Andy has more than 15 years of experience as a professional filmmaker. Anderson Productions Inc. has produced hundreds of commercials for local, regional, and national clients, and has won 3 consecutive Telly awards for cinematography. While often serving as Producer/ Director/Writer/Editor, Andy's passion is for Cinematography. He has served as a second unit cinematographer for Sean Penn's *The Indian Runner*, *O' Pioneer* starring Jessica

Lang, and both of Alexander Payne's films: Citizen Ruth (with Laura Dern) and Election (with Matthew Broderick). He was the Cinematographer on the low budget feature Omaha: The Movie, which played in 36 cities, was accepted into many domestic and international film festivals, and was picked up by ShowTime and Blockbuster video. He is currently producing, directing, and shooting an hour long \$1.5 million music video epic for Chip Davis' newest Mannheim Steamroller DVD.

**Sagan Lewis:** Actress, singer, screen writer—she is best known for her six years performing as Dr. Jackie Wade in the internationally acclaimed St. Elsewhere. She has acted in dozens of T.V. shows and films including M.A.S.H., Moonlighting, The Golden Girls, and recurring roles on Homicide, Life in the Street and HBO's The Beat. She's held guest artistships at Dartmouth & Princeton. She also worked with Tabakov of the Moscow Art Theatre and Spiros Evangelatos of the Greek National Theatre. She taught acting in L.A., New York, San Diego, and Maui.

**Lew Hunter:** Lew is known as THE screenwriting professor. His book, *Screenwriting 434*, is based on the class he taught at UCLA (where he is Chairman Emeritus and Professor of Screenwriting), and his current book is called, *Naked Screenwriting: 22 Academy Award Winning Screenwriters Bare Their Hearts and Souls to You*. He teaches seminars and workshops around the world (including, Paris, Croatia, Italy, and Greece) but often comes home to Nebraska to land in Superior where he runs his colony for screenwriters at least twice a year. He has written and produced for ABC, CBS, NBC, Canadian Broadcasting Company, Worldwide Pictures, Columbia TV, Lorimar, Paramount, and Warner Brothers. Remember this: He is one of the few well known screenwriting teachers who have actually had scripts produced!

#### **SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:**

**8:30 to 9:00 Registration**

**9:00 Opening, Announcements, Introductions**

**9:15 Sagan Lewis: an Actress/Story Editor/Writer on Screenwriting**

**10:30 Break**

**10:50 Announcements/Come Back/Intro Andy and Mark**

**11:00 Andy Anderson/Mark Hoeger: Producers/Directors on Screenwriting**

**12:00 Lunch on your own**

**1:30 Reconvene/Introduce Lew Hunter/Lew's 434 Course**

**3:00 Break**

**3:15 Lew Hunter: Script Ideas and More**

**4:30 Closing Comments**