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## **Let's Talk Screenwriting Handout / Resources**

### **How the film industry works.**

No one, single way to get your book made into a movie.

Producers get movies made. Big and small companies.

Studios do not make movies – they distribute movies.

Making movies in Atlanta, Georgia, Canada, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and more.

Capernaum Studios near Dallas, Texas – The Chosen first season filmed here.

Ancient Jerusalem movie set, Goshen, Utah - some of The Chosen 2nd season filmed here.

Channels like Hallmark and Streaming Services like Netflix both:

- Produce their own content,
- And buy content.

Producers need scripts – develop their own and hire a writer, or buy from screenwriters.

Book options – from \$10 to big bucks. Don't hold out for big bucks – make the deal!

Hollywood / Producers love “IP” – pre-existing Intellectual Property

### **Who do you approach and how?**

Producers, Assistant producers, People in the film business, Anyone with a connection to someone in the film business. Friends? Family? Bartender?

Meet them at film festivals, local organizations (Women in Film, 48 Hour Films)

Twitter, LinkedIn.

Can submit for you: Literary Agents (movie, not books), Managers, Entertainment Attorney

How do I find them? RESEARCH!

- Just like Publishing, which producers/production companies best for your project. Study the markets. Find similar films. Use IMDB.com. Who produced them?
- How do they want to be approached?

Create a database on Excel. Gather names. Companies. What else they produced.

Search for web site, email, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.

Send a SHORT message: “Do you take submissions?” Or Query Letters or Cold Calls.

Keep records of who you've contacted and what you've sent. You'll need this!

DO NOT: Send your book. Get permission first.

### **What materials do you need?**

- Logline – one sentence, 25 – 60 words-ish. (Not a Tag Line.)
- A one-page / Pitch page (See Stage32.com's instructions.)
- Synopsis 1 – 2 pages, single spaced, present tense.
- Treatment – up to 10 pages. Double spaced, present tense.

- Screenplay. Make it clear up front whether or not you have a screenplay written.
- Your published book

Meetings: You get invited. Pay your own way. Let them lead the meeting.

### **GETTING YOUR SCREENPLAY** Three options:

1. Write your own screenplay. Know:
  - Story Structure - *Save the Cat* by Blake Snyder
  - Screenplay Format - *The Hollywood Standard* (3rd Edition) by Christopher Riley
2. Get a screenwriter to write it for you
  - What's in it for me? Pay? Why should I set aside all my projects for yours?
3. Let a Producer option your book and they'll hire a screenwriter.
  - Costs them a lot to hire a screenwriter in \$\$ and in time.

### **Steps you can take toward getting your book made into a movie.**

Know how the industry works.

Know the Who: Research. Find your ideal audience. List NAMES. List on Excel.

Get your materials in order: Screenplay? Are you pitching your project with or without one?

Build your network contacts.

Make contact.

- Politely ask if they take submissions? May you send a logline?
- Start with the shortest. Hook them. Make them want more. Reel them in.

Provide what they ask for – have it ready to go!

Track submissions.

### **RESOURCES**

- InkTip.com free newsletter
- Stage32.com – can do a pitch there for \$35.
- NetworkISA.org – International Screenwriters Association
- Shun Lee Fong @ TheGreenhouseProductions.com. Also on Facebook.
- IMDB.com – free account
- Film Courage on YouTube
- 168Film.com
  - “Write of Passage” Speed short film writing, mentored competition
  - Speed film-making competition
- FilmFreeway.com
- Many, many books...
- Including my coming e-books: *Beginning Screenwriting & The Shape of Story* – Watch [www.DianneEButts.com](http://www.DianneEButts.com) and [ButtsAboutWriting.blogspot.com](http://ButtsAboutWriting.blogspot.com) for ordering information.

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### **Bio:**

Dianne has placed 300 articles in print magazines, many more in online magazines, contributed to 22 books, and is the author of 6 print books and 7 more e-books. Writer / Producer / Director of award-winning short films.

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