

## RESOURCES FOR SCREENWRITERS

by Jas Lonnquist - updated April 2013

You'll find an abundance of screenwriting advice, books, courses, and contests online. Not all are worth your time, most are not worth your money, and some are outright scams. Be discerning, especially when it comes to (a) obscure contests, (b) services that charge fees to read your script or let you pitch, and (c) non-paying writing gigs.

Here are some legitimate resources you may find useful.

### SCREENWRITING BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

*Screenplay* by Syd Field  
Industry classic. Teaches 3-act structure.

*The Writer's Journey* by Christopher Vogler  
Industry classic. Based on the work of Joseph Campbell, it defines mythic structure for film.

*Writing for Emotional Impact* by Karl Iglesias  
A must-read for screenwriters. I studied with Karl Iglesias and highlighted so much in my notes, they may as well have been printed on yellow paper.

*Writing Movies for ~~Fun and~~ Profit* by Robert Ben Garant and Thomas Lennon  
Contains a lot of uncomfortable truths and practical business advice for screenwriters. From the authors of several high-earning comedies including *Night at the Museum* and *Reno 911*.

### INFORMATION AND INDUSTRY ACCESS

INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE [IMDB.com](http://IMDB.com)  
Searchable online database of people and projects in the film and TV industry. Box office stats. Entertainment news. Free, but for an additional annual fee you gain access to contact information and other details needed by professionals.

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER [hollywoodreporter.com](http://hollywoodreporter.com)  
Trade magazine for the entertainment industry.

VARIETY [variety.com](http://variety.com)  
Trade magazine for the entertainment industry.

HOLLYWOOD SCREENWRITING DIRECTORY 2013 [writersstore.com](http://writersstore.com)  
Industry yellow pages. This replaces the previous industry standard, *The Hollywood Creative Directory* which has ceased production.

DONE DEAL [donedealpro.com](http://donedealpro.com)  
Lists monthly sales and the details of the deal (sale based on a pitch, treatment, book, spec script, etc.) as well as the parties (writers, agents, managers, prodcos) involved.

U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE [copyright.gov](http://copyright.gov)  
Copyright your work here. Use Form PA for screenplays.

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND WRITERS PROGRAMS**

NICHOLL SCREENWRITING FELLOWSHIPS    [Oscars.org](http://Oscars.org)

This is the crème de la crème of screenwriting competitions. Highly competitive, but prestigious.

AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL    [austinfilmfestival.com](http://austinfilmfestival.com)

A big-name competition that nets winners a cash prize and industry attention.

DISNEY/ABC WRITING PROGRAM    [abctalentdevelopment.com](http://abctalentdevelopment.com)

Selects writers for one year of employment and mentorship at Disney or ABC.

## **SCREENWRITING SITES**

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, WEST    [wga.org](http://wga.org)

Professional guild. Even if you're not yet a pro, the website is packed with free, valuable information. Register your script here.

THE WRITERS STORE    [writersstore.com](http://writersstore.com)

Supportive source of books, software, and information for writers.

SAMUEL FRENCH    [Samuelfrench.com](http://Samuelfrench.com)

Purchase plays, scripts, and industry books.

SIMPLY SCRIPTS    [simplyscripts.com](http://simplyscripts.com)

Download scripts to read and study format.

## **ONGOING EDUCATION**

There's a plethora of workshops, live and online courses, webinars, DVDs, and other opportunities ranging from excellent to shameful waste of time. Read reviews and proceed with caution. Here are two I recommend.

UCLA ONLINE EXTENSION    [uclaextension.edu](http://uclaextension.edu)

Online screenwriting courses taught by industry professionals. Screenwriting competition for students.

DOV S-S SIMENS TWO-DAY FILM SCHOOL    [dovsimensfilmschool.com](http://dovsimensfilmschool.com)

A two-day look at the filmmaking process.