
Profiles of the Pros

Ask the Pros:

Screenwriting

101 Questions Answered by
Industry Professionals

<< Return to excerpts
Profiles of the Pros

DINA APPLETON

Dina Appleton is Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs at Writers & Artists Group International, a talent and literary agency with offices in New York and Los Angeles. Dina is a member of both the Law Society of Upper Canada and the State Bar of California, and serves on the Beverly Hills Bar Association's Entertainment Law Executive Committee and the USC Entertainment Symposium's Planning Committee. She is the co-author of Hollywood Dealmaking with Daniel Yankelevits.

HAROLD BECKER

Harold Becker was a successful photographer in New York City before his directorial debut, *The Ragman's Daughter*, won the Giovanni Award at the Venice Film Festival. His next film, *The Onion Field*, established him as a master of the crime drama, and introduced James Woods, Franklyn Seales, and Ted Danson. He followed this up with *Taps*, a military drama that starred Sean Penn and Tom Cruise in memorable debuts. Other milestones in Harold Becker's career include *Sea of Love*, an erotic film noir thriller starring Al Pacino and Ellen Barkin; *Malice*, a medical thriller with Alec Baldwin and Nicole Kidman; and *City Hall*, in which he teamed up again with Pacino. Other credits include *The Black Marble*, *Vision Quest*, *Mercury Rising*, *The Boost*, and *Domestic Disturbance* with John Travolta and Vince Vaughn.

CHRISSEY BLUMENTHAL

Producer Chrissy Blumenthal began her career as a story editor at Mandalay Entertainment. In 1999 she joined Todd Black and Jason Blumenthal's Black and Blu Entertainment as Vice President of Development, overseeing the production of such films as *A Knight's Tale* and *Antwone Fisher*. In 2001 Black and Blu merged with the Steve Tisch Company to form Escape Artists, which is currently in pre-production on *Weather Man*, directed by Gore Verbinski and starring Nicholas Cage, as well as *Need*, directed by Marcus Nispel and starring Diane Lane. As Senior Vice President of Escape Artists, she is personally overseeing the development of Thompson Evan's romantic-comedy, *Wedlocked*, starring Meg Ryan; and an adaptation of Karyn Bosnak's novel, *Save Karyn*.

MARTI BLUMENTHAL

Marti Blumenthal has been a literary agent in the motion picture and television industry for over fifteen years. She currently is a partner and oversees the literary department at Writers and Artists Group International, which encompasses both motion pictures and television. Some of her personal projects include raising the financing for *Igby Goes Down* and negotiating the sale of film rights to many of John Grisham's best-selling novels. She is co-founder of Showbiz Seminars, a company established to educate the next generation of screenwriters and filmmakers about the industry. She is also a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science.

MARTY BOWEN

Marty Bowen is partner and agent at the United Talent Agency.

LARRY BRODY

A television writing legend, Larry Brody has written and/or produced and created thousands of hours of network television programming, including such animated series as *Spawn*, *The Silver Surfer*, and *Spider-Man*

Unlimited; as well as primetime series such as *Mike Hammer*, *Baretta*, *Medical Story*, *The Fall Guy*, *The Streets* of San Francisco, and *Police Story*. Brody has won or been nominated for every major television award and both *Spawn* and *Police Story* have won Emmys for Best Series. Brody is also the Founder and Creative Director of Cloud Creek Institute for the Arts, a non-profit corporation dedicated to advancing the arts by helping new artists get a foot in the door. Brody has used his award-winning website, twriter.com, to help launch the careers of many new writers, and his book, *Television Writing from the Inside Out: Your Channel to Success*, is a top seller.

STANLEY M. BROOKS

Veteran TV Producer Stanley Brooks started his career as Vice President of Development for Centerpoint Productions, where he developed *Oceanquest*, an NBC documentary miniseries that garnered five Emmy nominations. Brooks left Centerpoint to become President of Guber-Peters Television, which afforded him an opportunity to help some of the more prominent writers and producers in television to move into features, the foremost example being *Barry Morrow with Rain Man*, which went on to win Best Picture in 1988. After Brooks left Guber-Peters, he started *Once Upon A Time* Films, and embarked on a series of TV firsts: producing MTV's first movie, *Jailbait!*; TNT's first MOW, *Finish Line*; and Arnold Schwarzenegger's directorial debut *Christmas in Connecticut*. Last year, his company produced the first telefilm to ever air on ESPN: *A*

Season on the Brink, starring Brian Dennehy as former Indiana head basketball coach Bobby Knight. This year Once Upon A Time Films has already produced three TV films including Beautiful Girl for Disney; On Thin Ice with Diane Keaton for Lifetime; and The Legend of Butch & Sundance for NBC.

LINDA COWGILL

Linda Cowgill is a screen and television writer who has taught at the AFI, the Kennedy Center, the Boston Film Institute, Loyola Marymount University, and the LA Film School. As a student at UCLA, she won a Jim Morrison Award for best short film, and in 1986, her feature film, Opposing Force, was released by Orion Pictures (under a pseudonym). She has written for such television shows as Quincy, The Young Riders, and Life Goes On, for which she won a Genesis Award. Ms. Cowgill teaches a seminar called The Art of Plotting, and is also the author of Writing Short Films and Secrets of Screenplay Structure. Her website can be found at www.plotinc.com.

LISA CRON

Lisa Cron spent a decade in publishing as an editor and publicist before turning to writing. On the strength of her spec script, Overnight Sensation, she was hired by producers Brett and Bill Hudson (Kate's dad) to write the pilot and bible for a one-hour family drama they were developing. She spent the next seven years commuting between New York and Los Angeles, where she served as a writer and producer on several projects with Hudson. In New York she was a story analyst, first for Warner Bros., then for the William Morris Agency, concentrating on books to film. She has read for such companies as Miramax, Icon Productions, Village Roadshow, and the Don Buchwald Agency. As a natural off-shoot of her work, about ten years ago she also began working one-on-one with writers, as a literary coach.

Her website can be found at inside-story-ink.com.

MARK DEMPSEY

Mark Dempsey is currently a freelance story analyst. Prior to that, Mark was a development executive at Echo Lake Productions for seven years, where he was Vice President and Director of Development. During his tenure at Echo Lake, Mark evaluated submissions, advised the company on the acquisition of new projects, and assisted in the development of many of Echo Lake's current slate of projects. Mark is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and received his MFA in Screenwriting from Loyola Marymount University.

DIANE DRAKE

Diane Drake's credits include the Paramount romantic comedy What Women Want starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt; and Only You, directed by Norman Jewison, and starring Robert Downey, Jr. and Marisa Tomei. Before turning to screenwriting full time, Drake was Vice President of Creative Affairs for Director-Producer Sydney Pollack's Mirage Productions. She is a native of Los Angeles, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at San Diego.

DAVID ENGEL

David Engel is a partner at the West Coast office of the management/production

company, Circle of Confusion. Circle has a first-look production deal with Columbia Pictures. Additionally, the outfit manages such film, television, and comic book clients as The Wachowski Brothers (The Matrix trilogy), Simon Kinberg (XXX2), Chabot & Peterka (Reign of Fire), Kiran (Kid Bang), Brian Michael Bendis (Spider-Man, Powers, Jinx), Michael Avon Oeming (Hammer of the Gods, Bastard Samurai), Dan Brereton (The Psycho, The Nocturnals), and James Hudnall (The Psycho, Harsh Realm). Formerly, Engel was Director of Development for Mace Neufeld Productions, where he discovered Powers, the graphic novel now set up at Sony, and previously found the comic book Harsh Realm, which aired on Fox TV.

JOHN FASANO

Moving to Los Angeles in 1990 John Fasano sold his first script, Tailgunner, to Morgan Creek for \$1.5 million. Other feature films followed in quick succession: Another 48 Hours (Paramount), Judge Dredd (Cinergi), Universal Soldier: The Return (Columbia), and 2003's Darkness Falls (Columbia). Additional screenplay sales include Shaolin for Disney, and Werewolf By Night for Marvel Comics/Dimension Films. Fasano also had a role in producing the motion pictures Darkness Falls and Tombstone (Hollywood Pictures), as well as creating several television pilots and telefilms including FX: The Series for Rysher, Mean Streak for Showtime; the miniseries The Forever War for the Sci-Fi Channel; The Hunley and WGA-nominated teleplay The Hunchback, both for TNT; Christine Refuelled, Saving Jessica Lynch, and The Legend of Butch and Sundance for NBC. John is represented by 1CM and Baumgarten Management and Production.

ROBBIE FOX

Robbie Fox studied theater and film at Northwestern and New York Universities. His short film The Great O'Grady won several comedy awards on the festival circuit and played for several years on Showtime. He wrote the original feature film comedies So I Married an Axe Murderer with Mike Myers, and Shooting Elizabeth with Jeff Goldblum, as well as the story for In the Army Now with Pauly Shore. He's done punch ups on various TV shows and movies including the Disney short Runaway Brain, and My Girl with Dan Aykroyd and Macaulay Culkin. For the theater, he wrote The Gift, a musical starring Alicia Witt that played in Los Angeles during the summer of 2000. Two years before that he did the New York workshop of that musical under Herbert Ross' direction, then called Complications. He currently has a number of original scripts in development with Disney, Fox, and Universal. His next two films are romantic comedies: Once in Love with Jamie, which is currently casting to be produced in 2004 by One Roof Entertainment, and So I Met This Girl, which will be directed by Joel Zwick.

DAVID T. FRIENDLY

David T. Friendly has been a producer and executive in the film business for over thirteen years. Friendly began his career as a journalist at Newsweek and later at The Los Angeles Times, where he was approached by Imagine Entertainment co-founders Brian Grazer and Ron Howard to join their company. During seven years at Imagine, he rose to President of Production and was integral to many of the company's hits, including Backdraft, Kindergarten Cop, The Dream Team, and The Burbs, and served as Executive Producer on My Girl, Greedy, and The Chamber. In 1994, Friendly joined Davis Entertainment as President, where he oversaw all aspects of development and production. In 2000, Friendly teamed with Marc Turtletaub to form Deep River Productions. Bankrolled at upwards of \$25 million, this new production entity will finance its own development and overhead, while partnering with various studios. He is currently finishing Laws of

Attraction, starring Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore. His other credits include Big Momma's House, Here on Earth, Dr. Doolittle, and Courage under Fire.

D.B. GILLES

D.B. Gilles is the author of the popular screenwriting book, *The Screenwriter Within*, published by Random House. He teaches Screenwriting and Comedy Writing in the Film Department at New York University. He also teaches in the Graduate Film Department at Columbia University. He writes a weekly column on screenwriting for

Hollywoodlitsales.com and also writes for writerstore.com. Mr. Gilles is a script consultant who can be reached directly at

BARRY GOLD

Barry Gold is a TV writer who has written for *Arliss*, *Major Dad*, and *Family Matters*, as well as several other sitcoms.

KIRA GOLDBERG

Kira Goldberg is the Head of Development at Lynda Obst Productions.

DAVID GOYER

Writer-Director-Producer David S. Goyer began his writing career soon after graduation from film school at USC, with the Jean-Claude Van Damme starrer *Death Warrant*, followed by three more produced features and the NBC series, *Sleepwalkers*. After writing New Line's comic book-to-film hit *Blade*, and the haunting, noirish *Dark City*, David co-produced Disney's *Mission to Mars* while creating and writing the Fox series, *Freakylinks*. He also wrote and executive produced *Blade II* and adapted *Murder Mysteries*, a supernatural thriller based on a short story by Goth comic book guru Neil Gaiman. Recently David wrote the comic book *JSA* for DC comics, adapted Jeff Long's novel *The Descent* for DreamWorks, and wrote the intensely anticipated *Batman* for director Christopher Nolan. *ZigZag*, David's directorial debut, allowed him to launch his own production company, *Phantom Four Films*, through which he will produce the ghost story *Alone* for New Line Cinema, the futuristic comic *Y: The Last Man* for New Line, and the science-fiction-themed comic *Unique* for Touchstone. Currently, David is directing his second feature, *Blade III*, on which he also serves as producer and writer.

GRADY HALL

Writer-Director Grady Hall's industry experience ranges from the mailroom to the director's chair. He started his career at Warner Bros., and read thousands of scripts on the way to becoming, at age twenty-five, the head of development for a prolific television producer. Grady worked on his own movies and series projects, eventually staffing *The Outer Limits* for Showtime. More recently, he has written and directed music videos for bands such as R.E.M. and *Less Than Jake*, and directed commercials for Nike, DIRECTV, McDonalds, ESPN, and others.

JONATHAN HANDEL

Jonathan Handel is Of Counsel at the Troy & Gould law firm in Century City, where he practices entertainment and digital media law. He was previously Associate Counsel of the Writers Guild of America. Mr. Handel serves on the Business and Management Advisory Board of UCLA Extension's Entertainment Department, and has taught film appreciation classes and seminars on entertainment law, business, and technology. The material presented here is for general information only. It is not legal advice, and may not represent the views of the organizations listed. His website is www.jhandel.com.

RIO HERNANDEZ

Rio Dylan Hernandez is a recent graduate of USC's Master of Professional Writing Program. She has worked both in film production and development, and been a script analyst for such companies as DreamWorks SKG, New Line, Tri-Star TV and the William Morris Agency.

JON HUDDLE

Jon Huddle is a motion picture literary agent at 1CM.

CLAUDIA JOHNSON

Claudia Johnson and Matt Stevens are the co-authors of Script Partners: What Makes Film and TV Writing Teams Work, the first book on the subject of collaborative scriptwriting. Claudia is also the author of the popular film school text Crafting Short Screenplays That Connect, and Stifled Laughter, which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Their website can be found at www.scriptpartners.com.

LARRY KARASZEWSKI

Larry Karaszewski is the writing partner of Scott Alexander. Together, they wrote Ed Wood, for which they were nominated for Best Screenplay by the Writers Guild of America. They followed this with The People vs. Larry Flynt, for which they won the Golden Globe for Best Screenplay, as well as a special Writers Guild Award given in recognition of work done for civil rights and liberties. They re-teamed again with director Milos Forman on Man on the Moon, a biopic about the legendary comic genius Andy Kaufman. They currently are writing and directing a biopic on the Marx brothers. Collaborators since their senior year at USC's School of Cinema, they began their careers with the box office hit Problem Child and its sequel.

KEN KOKIN

Ken Kokin is a producer whose credits include The Way of the Gun, The Usual Suspects, and Public Access. He is a graduate of the USC School of Cinema-Television.

ADAM KOLBRENNER

Adam Kolbrenner began his career in the mailroom at the William Morris Agency in New York, and ended up working for legendary music agent, Jon Podell, and such clients as The Eagles, Peter Gabriel, The Ailman Brothers, and dozens of hiphop artists. He was also responsible for client bookings of summer tours and festivals including Woodstock '94, Lollapalooza,

and the Horde Festival. Later he moved to William Morris' offices in Los Angeles where he worked in both motion picture and television packaging with such high-profile clients as John Travolta, Candice Bergen, Elaine May, Dustin Hoffman, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. At the age of twenty-four, Adam became the co-founder of Foundation Management, and is currently head of literary management and co-head of productions. Under the FLM banner, Adam represents over thirty working writers and directors for film and television.

GREGG MCBRIDE

Gregg McBride is a screenwriter and TV writer whose credits include *Have a Nice Life* for MW Films and *Happily Never After* for Disney. He was also a staff writer on MTV's hip, sexy series *Undressed*. His website can be found at www.bridesmadefilms.com.

PETER MILLER

Peter Miller has been a literary and film manager for over thirty years. He has represented over 900 books and has had eleven New York Times bestsellers, and eleven movies produced that he either managed, developed, or executive produced. As a producer, he has been nominated for two Emmy Awards. His company, PMA, is based in New York, but he stays in close contact with Los Angeles-based studio, network, cable, and film company executives as well as with West Coast-based agents, managers, screenwriters, and directors. PMA also employs foreign representatives throughout the world since many of their clients have been global bestsellers. PMA's sister corporation, Millennium Lion, Inc., is a production entity that coordinates the submission of all potential film properties to television networks, studios, and production companies. You can contact Peter Miller through his company's website at www.pmalitfilm.com.

CRAIG MOSS

Craig Moss is part of a screenwriting duo that includes Steve Schoenburg. Together they have written *Night Girls* for New Regency, *National Lampoon's Back to College*, and *Sissymarys* for

Universal. Their TV work includes *Crank It Up* for Fox, and *Feltlyn* for Fox and the WB.

WENDI NIAD

Former literary agent Wendi Niad opened Niad Management in 1997 with the goal of providing close personal advice and counsel for her carefully chosen stable of writers and directors. She began her career at 1CM working with heavy hitting clients and companies such as Roland Joffe, Randall Wallace, *40 Acres and a Mule*, and Stephen J. Cannell Productions.

STEPHANIE PALMER

Stephanie Palmer is currently the Director of Creative Affairs at MGM Pictures. Originally from Alexandria, Virginia, Stephanie received a B.F.A. in theater directing from Carnegie Mellon University. Her first job in the business was as an assistant at Jerry Bruckheimer Films on *Armageddon* and *Enemy of the State*. She has worked at MGM since 1999 where she started as an assistant and has been promoted three times to her current position as a development and production executive. In 2003, she was named one of the "Top 35 Under 35 Entertainment Executives" by The Hollywood Reporter.

DENNIS PALUMBO

Formerly a Hollywood screenwriter (My Favorite Year; Welcome Back, Kotter), Dennis Palumbo, MA, MFT, is a licensed psychotherapist in private practice, specializing in creative issues. He's the author of a novel (City Wars), as well as numerous articles and reviews. His most recent book is Writing From the Inside Out: Transforming Your Psychological Blocks to Release the Writer Within. Dennis' work helping writers has been profiled in Premiere, GQ, and The Los Angeles Times, as well as on CNN. His website can be found at www.dennispalumbo.com.

PARIS QUALLES

Known primarily for his work as an episodic and long form television writer-producer, Paris Qualles spent more than fifteen years in the theater as an actor and director before turning to film and television writing. His episodic television credits include China Beach, Equal Justice; Lois & Clark, The New Adventures of Superman; Quantum Leap, Law & Order, Amen, and The Heights. Television movies include the Emmy-winning The Cape; the Emmy, Cable-ACE, Image, and Peabody award-winning The Tuskegee Airmen; the Cable-ACE winning The Ditchdigger's Daughters; and the Emmy, Writers Guild, Humanitas, and Image award-winning The Color of Friendship. Other TV movies include The Rosa Parks Story, Profoundly Normal, and Standing at the Scratch Line. Feature films include The Inkwell, Brothers, Hannibal, and Sadgwar. Paris has received a Humanitas Award, Writers Guild Award, Image Award, and Christopher Award.

PAT QUINN

Pat Quinn is a literary and packaging agent at Innovative Artists. She is one of the top packagers in the entertainment industry with a background in television production, feature films, and theater. Her client list includes award-winning screenwriters, primetime comedy and drama series show runners, and production companies. She is also an instructor at UCLA Extension, creating the courses "Pitch Like the Pros: Insider Tips for Selling Your TV Show"; "Agent Representation for Film and Television Artists"; "Pilot Season: Packaging, Pressure, and Perseverance"; and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? A Guide to Developing, Selling, and Producing Reality/Alternative TV Programming."

NANCY RAINFORD

After graduating from SUNY, Purchase, Nancy Rainford began her career in New York reading scripts for a Broadway producer. In search of warmer climates, she moved to Los Angeles and spent nine years as a talent agent, representing actors, writers, and soon-to-be directors. She then switched hats from seller to buyer and began four years of television and feature film casting, including over twenty television series and pilots for ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, and HBO. Today, as a manager and producer, she handles writers, actors, and directors, and is currently developing projects for theater, television, and film, including Tim Ryan's critically acclaimed one-man show All the Help You Need.... Together with client Hopwood DePree, she co-created and executive produced Dear Doughboy, a half-hour comedy pilot originally shot for the WB network and Brillstein-Grey Productions. Rainford's book, titled How to Agent Your Agent, was written for actors, writers and anyone who finds themselves in need of representation.

DYANN S. RIVKIN

Dyann S. Rivkin is an award-winning writer-producer of broadcast network, nationally syndicated, and cable television programs; entertainment, educational, and promotional videos; and films. Her background includes ten years of Los Angeles production and scriptwriting experience as well as filming on location across America, and in Canada and Ireland. She has taught video production at Vanderbilt University and has taught screenwriting at Belmont University in Nashville, where she also teaches private courses in the art and craft of screenwriting.

MYRL A. SCHREIBMAN

Myrl A. Schreibman, author of *The Indie Producers Handbook: Creative Producing From A-Z*, has been a producer for over three decades and a faculty member of the UCLA Film School. He has produced and/or directed award winning projects for theater, film, and television, both on the studio level and the independent level. One of the leading authorities in the field, his lectures on producing and directing have inspired the likes of Producer Dan Angel (*Door to Door*), and Director Justin Linn (*Better Luck Tomorrow*). His theories on producing are now studied at all the major film schools in the United States. His website, www.indieproducing.com, is one of the most visited sites of its type on the Internet.

ARNOLD SCHULMAN

Arnold Schulman sold his first story at age ten and ever since has thought of doing nothing else but writing. He started out as an aspiring playwright, studying form and structure with Clifford Odets and others. He received on-the-job training in New York as a writer for live television and worked on nearly seventy teleplays. Eventually, Schulman was beckoned to Hollywood by Director George Cukor and Producer Hal Wallis to write *Wild is the*

Wind. Some of his other screenplay credits include *Funny Lady*, *A Chorus Line* and *Tucker: A Man and His Dream*. In addition,

he has two Oscar nominations, one for Best Original Story and Screenplay (*Love with the Proper Stranger*), and one for Screenplay Adaptation (*Goodbye, Columbus*). He also has three Writers Guild nominations for Best Screenplay (*Wild is the Wind*, *A Hole in the Head*, and *Love with the Proper Stranger*), and a Writers Guild Award for *Goodbye, Columbus*.

SETH SCHUR

Seth Schur is Director of Development for Saturn Films, where he heads up development for the company's project slate, including coverage and story notes, and is responsible for all new material. Seth started out as an administrative assistant at Stone Meyer & Genow, LLP, working with the company's entertainment attorneys on contracts for talent and literary clients. In 2000 he moved over to Saturn, where he oversaw production on *The Life of David Gale* and *Sonny*. Seth was also a juror at the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival in 2002.

LINDA SEGER

Dr. Linda Seger defined the job of script consultant in 1981, when she began her script consulting business based on a system for analyzing screenplays that she developed as part of her doctoral dissertation. She has consulted on over 2000 projects, including over thirty produced TV projects, and over fifty produced feature films. Her clients have included TriStar Pictures, MGWUA, Guber-Peters Entertainment, and Charles Fries Entertainment, as

well as Ray Bradbury, William Kelley, Tony Bill, Dave Bell, Linda Lavin, and Suzanne De Passe. She is the author of seven books on screenwriting and filmmaking: *Making a Good Script Great*; *Creating Unforgettable Characters*; *The Art of Adaptation: Turning Fact and Fiction into Film*; *From Script to Screen*:

The Collaborative Art of Filmmaking (with co-author Edward Jay Whetmore); *When Women Call the Shots: The Developing Power and Influence of Women* in Television and Film; and *Making a Good Writer Great, Advanced Screenwriting: Raising your Writing to the Academy Award Level*; and her latest release, *From Script to Screen: The Collaborative Art of Filmmaking, 2nd Edition*, also written with Edward Jay Whetmore.

CHARLES SHYER

In 1979 Charles Shyer and Nancy Meyers teamed up to write *Private Benjamin*, which they also produced. The screenplay won Meyers and Shyer a Writers Guild of America Award for Best Original Screenplay and was nominated for an Academy Award in that same category. The film was also nominated for multiple Golden Globe Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actress. Shyer's next project, *Irreconcilable Differences*, marked his directorial debut. In 1991, Meyers and Shyer remade the 1950 Vincente Minnelli classic, *Father of the Bride* (with Shyer directing) and later its sequel, *Father of the Bride, Part II*. Shyer is currently in post-production on a film based on the 1960s classic, *Alfie*. The new version stars Jude Law and is scheduled for a fall/holiday 2004 release.

MATT STEVENS

Matt Stevens and Claudia Johnson are the co-authors of *Script Partners: What Makes Film and TV Writing Teams Work*, the first book on the subject of collaborative scriptwriting. Matt is a writer-director-producer who has sold both fiction and documentary projects and is a contributing writer for E! Online and numerous new-media outlets. Their website can be found at www.scriptpartners.com.

DAN STRONCAK

Dan Stroncak has spent a decade working in the entertainment industry. After graduating from the UCLA Professional Screenwriting Program he worked as a development assistant for 20th Century Fox, then as a casting associate for Valerie McCaffrey. He learned feature film finance as a foreign distribution consultant for Morgan Creek Productions, then returned to development as a story analyst for Intermedia Films and Shady Acres Entertainment. He was also a creative executive for Director Steve Anderson, a VP of Development for Blue Raven Films, and an associate producer with Bogorad/Wyler Productions, before establishing Exemplar Entertainment, a literary management and independent production company. Currently Dan is working as a creative executive for producer Christine Peters (*How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days*) at Paramount Pictures.

STEPHEN SUSCO

Stephen Susco has been a screenwriter since 1996. He has written scripts for New Line, Universal, Dimension, Sony, Miramax and Paramount Studios, and for directors and producers such as Mike Nichols, Quentin Tarantino, Ted Demme, Gale Anne Hurd, Philip Noyce, Taylor Hackford, Sam Raimi, and John Leguizamo. His first produced film, *The Grudge*, will be completed this year.

DAVID TROTTIER

David Trottier is the author of The Screenwriter's Bible

- now in its third edition - which contains the latest on formatting, spec style, script marketing, writing guidelines, and more. In his capacity as screenwriter and script consultant, he has developed projects for, among others, the Walt Disney Company, Jim Henson Pictures, New Century, and York Entertainment. More information on Trottier can be found on his website at www.keepwriting.com.

JOHN TRUBY

John Truby has taught his Great Screenwriting and Genre classes to over 20,000 students worldwide. He has been a story consultant and script doctor for Disney Studios, Sony Pictures, FOX, HBO, Alliance Atlantis, Cannell Studios, BBC, and others. His Blockbuster software takes students through the entire writing process using his award-winning "22 steps of every great story." You can visit his website at www.Truby.com.

CHRISTINE VALADA

Christine Valada, Esq. is a copyright and entertainment lawyer practicing in Los Angeles County, California. She represents individual writers, visual and performing artists, and is California Legislative Counsel for the American Society of Media Photographers. From 1996-2002 she served as outside general counsel for the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and clerked for both the Writers Guild of America, west, Inc. and the Directors Guild of America, Inc. during two successive summers. She has a special interest in creators' rights and her article "Truth, Justice, and the American Way" about comic book properties and the law was the cover story for a past entertainment law issue of Los Angeles Lawyer magazine.

DOUG WALLACE

Doug Wallace is a screenwriter who has written and developed projects for Gail Anne Hurd, Phillip Noyce, Arnold Kopelson, Jon Peters, Michael Phillips, Alan Riche, Tony Ludwig, Doug Wick, CZ Wick, Neil Moritz, Brad Luff, Ricardo Mestres, and Channing Dungee, among others. He has also written for the TV series Monsters and Tales From the Dark Side, and he wrote the feature film Sensations, which premiered on HBO in 1995.

DANIEL YANKELEVITS

Daniel Yankelevits is an executive in the Business and Legal Affairs Group at DreamWorks SKG, and teaches an annual entertainment law seminar at UCLA. He previously served as Director of Business Affairs at HBO and at New Line Cinema, and was co-chair of the Beverly Hills Bar Association's Entertainment Section. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and currently lives in Los Angeles. He is the coauthor, with Dina Appleton, of Hollywood Dealmaking.

LARRY ZERNER

Larry Zerner is a copyright, trademark, and entertainment attorney in Los Angeles who represents writers for both transactional and litigation matters. He can be reached at

The Editors

HOWARD MEIBACH

A leading expert in the spec script marketplace, Howard Meibach is the President of Hollywoodlitsales.com, Inc., an Internet company dedicated to helping writers and filmmakers connect with producers, agents, lawyers, and others in the Hollywood film community. Meibach is affiliated with Sony-based Escape Artists to find literary material and new talent on and off the Internet. Formerly, he worked in development with Ron Shusett, co-screenwriter and producer of Total Recall and Alien, and has also worked for Michael Jaffe, producer of dozens of network and cable television movies. Meibach is the writer of several screenplays and has authored a reference book for screenwriters, Spec Screenplay Sales Directory. He regularly lectures at writing seminars and classes throughout the United States and can be contacted through his website.

PAUL DURAN

Paul Duran is a writer-director of two independent feature films *Flesh Suitcase* and *The Dogwalker*. His wide breadth of knowledge of the industry in addition to screenwriting and directing, he has worked as an editor, art director, assistant cameraman, script reader, and journalist has led Duran back to the classroom. He has lectured on independent filmmaking at USC and has taught screenwriting both here and abroad, most recently in Cuba. His next project, *Antarctica*, is currently in development.