Class Schedule

Friday, January 20
9:30 COFFEE & SNACKS
10:00-12:30 Session I
Cheri Steinkellner
Comedy in Film & Television
Writing for Laughs
Tom Lazarus
A Different Take On Screenwriting
12:30-1:30 LUNCH
1:30-4:00 Session II
William Davies
Screenplay Structure
Bryce & Jackie Zabel
Let Your Story Take Flight
3:30-6:00 Session V
3:15-3:30 SNACKS
12:45-3:15 Session IV
12:00-12:45 LUNCH
12:00-12:00 Session III
Tom Silvestri
Motion Picture Story Development in Hollywood Past, Present, and Future
Tara Miele
Reflecting Theme Through Character
12:45-3:15 Session IV
Marc Zicree
How To Actually Succeed in Film & TV Once You Get Out of Here
Michael Miner
The First Ten Pages: How To Set Up, Launch, and Deliver Your Story
3:15-3:30 SNACKS
3:30-6:00 Session V
Perry Lang
Writing Webisodes
Ron Suppa
The Business of Screenwriting: What To Do With Your Script After It's Written

Saturday, January 21
9:30 COFFEE & SNACKS
10:00-12:00 Session III
Tom Silvestri
Motion Picture Story Development in Hollywood Past, Present, and Future
Tara Miele
Reflecting Theme Through Character
12:00-12:45 LUNCH
12:45-3:15 Session IV
Marc Zicree
How To Actually Succeed in Film & TV Once You Get Out of Here
Michael Miner
The First Ten Pages: How To Set Up, Launch, and Deliver Your Story
3:15-3:30 SNACKS
3:30-6:00 Session V
Perry Lang
Writing Webisodes
Ron Suppa
The Business of Screenwriting: What To Do With Your Script After It's Written

Sunday, January 22
9:00 COFFEE & SNACKS
9:30-10:12 Session VI
Chuck Kim
TV Genre Writing
Glenn Leopold
Smurfs By Day, Slashers By Night – Writing for Animation & Beyond

Word Farm Bios

William Davies
William Davies is an English screenwriter and film producer. He has written and co-written a number of Hollywood blockbuster films including the 1988 Twins, Johnny English, Alien Autopsy, Flashback, and most recently, How to Train Your Dragon, and Johnny English Reborn. The British-born Davies is a graduate of Mercersburg Academy and Cambridge University. He is the brother of television producer Michael Davies.

Chuck Kim
Chuck Kim is a writer and graphic novel author for the show Heroes. Chuck also wrote the Sword Saint documentary. Chuck writes the occasional story for Marvel and DC Comics. In the past, he’s written for the Justice League Shoovan Grant. Suppes, Doctor’s lab, Powergen Gals and various Secret Files. Chuck’s Doctor’s lab story, “Momdark,” was adapted into an episode of the TV show. In addition to writing, he has edited many comic books.

Perry Lang
Perry Lang started to work in film as an actor at 17. Perry Lang has acted in over thirty films and seventy hours of television. His film work includes Sam Fuller’s The Big Red One, Steven Spielberg’s 1941 and John Sayles’ Luminous State as well as Eight Men Out where Perry played one of the indicted eight who threw the 1919 World Series. His television work as an actor includes M*A*S*H, the title character in the Emmy winning television special Here’s Just Different, A Reason for War, and numerous guest appearances. Perry also wrote many screenplays among many projects that he has been involved in as a writer or director. As a writer and director, Perry started producing and directing the crime show Tales From the Darkside in New York. Among a number of studio assignments, he wrote the first film he directed, Little Virus, that centered on the second, the Action Adventure, Men of War. Since then Perry Lang has directed over sixty hours of television including NYPD Blue, ER, Alias, West, and Eli Stone. Perry lives with his family in Santa Barbara, California.

Tom Lazarus
Tom Lazarus’ first career was in entertainment advertising where he created advertising for the major motion picture studios. He also designed album covers and was nominated for a Grammy. His second career as a screenwriter, directing and producing educational and business films. He won more than two dozen international film festival honors including Best Educational Film of the Year at the San Francisco Film Festival. He was nominated for a CLIO for directing a Fair House Public Service TV spot. Then, Mr. Lazarus started writing for television and several Movies of the Week including Fear No Evil and The Chain of Bill Conig and working as a staff writer/producer for nine network series such as Hunter, Jake and the Fatman, Stargate, Stargate, Mike Hammer, and Man of the World. His feature credits include the original story for George Burns/Bruce Brickman’s action adventure motion picture picture just You and Me, the script for the Swedish made Revenge and Justice and the film in America upon its release, Vignette. Mr. Lazarus has had nine feature films made from his original screenplays. Tom Lazarus has directed five feature films: Marquis Kill, Word of Month, House of Love, Vignette Confessions, and Exhibition Files. Mr. Lazarus has just finished writing, directing and executive producing the fifth season of the cable TV hit 7 Lives Xposed. In 2001, st. Marten’s Press published Mr. Lazarus’ book Secrets of Film Writing. Presently, Tom is finishing his novel of Haunted Pages. Mr. Lazarus has taught screenwriting and advanced screenwriting for the last twelve years at UCLA Extension. He has also taught graduate screenwriting at the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master Class at California State University Northridge. His grandfather, Paul Lazarus, was a motion picture pioneer working for Vitagraph in 1916 and United Artists in 1919. His father, Paul Lazarus, Jr., worked for both Columbia Pictures and Warner Brothers as Vice President in charge of Advertising and Publicity. Tom lives in Los Angeles with his wife writer Stevie Stern Lazarus and the two sweetest dogs in the world Baby and Morgan.

Glenn Leopold
A three time Emmy nominee, Glenn has written hundreds of animated episodes for such shows as Disney’s Doug (Emmy nomination), The Smurfs (Emmy nomination), Adventures From the Book of Virtue, Scooby-Doo, The Real Adventures of Johnny Quest, Pink Panther and Sons, Fantastic Four and many more. His NBC primetime special included Teaming Santa to Smurfy, The Twelve Days of Christmas, and the Emmy nominated The Three Little Pigs Forget starring Dick Van Dyke. Among his feature-length animation credits are the bestselling direct-to-video Scooby-Doo, the Goosebumps (An estimated 5 million copies and counting) and Scooby-Doo’s Ghoul School, The Road to El Dorado and The Golden School, and a Christmas Carol and a Christmas Carol. Glenn has also written live-action sitcoms, features (The Providence, Teen Scared to Scorn) and is accomplished singer-songwriter. His songs have appeared in Disney’s Thats So Raven and there are two on the Rhino Records CD’s. He even had a hit record ("Bush When My Hair Was Short") with his group Gambi Road that actually got him on the Billboard Road album was recently reissued on CD by Wounded Bird Records.

Tara Miele
Tara Miele is a short film director, Miss Gentilbelle, based on the Charles Beaumont story of the same name, starred several grants and awards including the Conven-Metropolitan Theatre Award. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and has since screened around the world. Tara’s second short film, Smackers, has also screened at dozens of festivals, including South by Southwest and was recognized as one of the “Ride of the Week” at the Sundance Film Festival. Most recently, Tara directed her feature film, Hear No Evil, starring Laura Ramsey and Ray Sefchak (ABC’S No Ordinary Family). The film was awarded The Spirit of Moondance at the Moondance Film Festival. In 2011, Tara was recognized as one of the Top Ten American Indie Directors to watch by London’s prestigious Raindance Film Festival and currently writes and resides in Los Angeles.
Michael Miner

Michael Miner received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and Theater, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Playwriting from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he wrote and directed his first live productions. In Los Angeles, he has written and directed numerous TV and radio specials, including features on the Fox Network, BBC television, Radio Four in London, Studios, DreamWorks, Twenty-Twentieth Century Fox, Universal Studios and Miramax Films. He has been profiled on College of Art, and has been a lecturer at the international American University and at Disney Animation (Thomson Course Technology, starring Sylvester Stallone. He also practiced with the New York firm of Pryor, Cashman & Sherman and Krintzman & Suppa in LA. Ron -

Tom Silvestri

Tom Silvestri is a film critic who graduated from the NYU Film School, studied at USC’s Professional Writing Program, and studi- act at the Los Angeles Theatre Institute in New York City. He has worked as a musical, music journalist, book-club editor, story analyser, development executive, and screenwriter; reading and developing movies and TV projects in Hollywood at more than forty major production companies. He has several movie projects in development and is the founder of Silvestri Storyworks, a story development consulting firm, at www.silvestristoryworks.com. Tom will give an interactive talk on “Motion Picture Story Development in Hollywood – Past, Present, and Future.” A major aspect of the talk will involve how to use a working knowledge of story development to land an initial position in the movie or TV industry and advance by way of that vital skill.

Cheri Steinkeller

Cheri Steinkeller is a screenwriter who has attended four emmys, three Golden Globes, two Writers Guild Awards, a People’s Choice, Fountain of Youth, and numerous film festivals. She is the author of the novel (with Alan Menken, Glenn Slater, and Bill Steinkellner – NAMT 2003, Goodspeed Norma Terris 2003, Seattle 5th Avenue Theatre, 2003); Sister Act (with Alan Menken, Glenn Slater, and Bill Steinkellner – Pasadena Playhouse 2006, Zippel, Matthew Wilder, and Matthew Wilder, and Bill Steinkellner – NAMT 2003, Goodspeed Norma Terris 2003, Seattle 5th Avenue Theatre, 2003); Teacher’s Pet (with David Zippel, Matthew Wilder, and Matthew Wilder, and Bill Steinkellner – Alliance Theater, Atlanta 2007, currently playing the London Palladium, opening on Broadway Spring 2011); Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, Miami, 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Special Thanks

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The Writer’s Guild of America

All of our Guests
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Julie Cunningham

Super Cucas
Sam’s To Go
Naan Stop