

WORD FARM



2009

D. Welch 09

Class Schedule

Friday, January 16

9:30	Coffee		
10:00-12:30	Session I	Tom Lazarus <i>New Story Paradigms</i>	David Wieger <i>The First Ten Pages</i>
12:30-1:30	Lunch	(Italian)	
1:30-4:00	Session II	Joel Thompson <i>TV Staff Writing</i>	Harrison Reiner <i>Dynamic Story Part 1</i>

Saturday January 17

9:00	Coffee		
9:30-12:00	Session III	Cindy Mc Creery <i>Outlining Features</i>	Cheri Steinkellner <i>Writing the Musical</i>
12:00-1:00	Lunch	(Indian)	
1:00-3:15	Session IV	Michael Miner <i>Modern Narratives</i>	Harrison Reiner <i>Dynamic Story Part 2</i>
3:15-3:30	Break		
3:30-6:00	Session V	Ian Weinreich <i>Outlining TV Specs</i> <i>/Grad School</i>	Julie Marsh <i>The Profession of Writing</i>

Sunday January 18

9:00	Snacks		
9:30-12:00	Session VI	Glenn Leopold <i>Writing Feature Animation</i>	Zach Hart <i>The Character Centered Screenplay</i>
12:00-1:00	Lunch	(Chinese)	
1:00-3:00	Session VII	Perry Lang <i>Working with Directors</i>	Nat Gertler <i>Writing for Comics & Graphic Novels</i>

Word Farm Bios

Nat Gertler

Nat Gertler, co-author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Creating a Graphic Novel*, has written comic books and graphic novels for literally dozens of publishers, including DC, Image, and Archie Comics. A two-time Eisner Award nominee, Nat has written adventures for well-known characters like The Flintstones and Richard Petty, as well as original concepts such as The Factor and Licensable Bear™. In his ten years as publisher of the About Comics line, he has published work by creators ranging from comic strip legend Charles Schulz to current superstars like Scott McCloud, Kurt Busiek, Neil Gaiman, and Gail Simone. He is the founder of 24 Hour Comics Day, the annual international festival of comics creation that each year sees over a thousand creators crafting tens of thousands of pages of comics. Really, he's a bit of a geek. Beyond comics, Nat is the author or co-author of 20 computer books. His short prose fiction has appeared in books and magazines. He has also written magazine columns, crossword puzzles, and one episode of animated TV. He once got paid \$35 for a seven-word button slogan, and now foolishly believes that that's his set word rate.

Zach Hart

Zach Hart graduated from UCSB in '06. While there he ran Word Farm, the Writer's Co-op, and made a viral video bought by VH1/Bravo/CMT/KFC Europe. He then attended Northwestern University's MFA graduate program focusing on writing for the stage and screen. He was commissioned by Strategic Pictures to write a horror film, *The Revenge* and was selected to be part of a writing mentorship with the Minnesota Playwriting Group. He taught two quarters of undergraduate intro to screenwriting and had numerous readings of his short works produced by various Chicago theater companies. He currently lives in Los Angeles, finishing his ninth feature screenplay and preparing a produced short film, *Silver Bullet* for festival submissions.

Perry Lang

Starting 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's *Sunshine 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 *MASH*, the title character in the Emmy winning television special *Hewitt's Just Different*, *A Rumor Of War* and numerous guest appearances, including many projects that he has himself either written or directed. As a writer and director, Perry started professionally writing doing *Tales From The Darkside* in New York. Among a number of studio assignments, he wrote the first film he directed, *Little Vegas* then rewrote the second, the *Action Adventure; Men of War*. Since then Perry Lang has directed over sixty hours of television including *NYPD Blue*, *ER*, *Alias*, *Weeds* and this years, *Eli Stone*. Perry lives with his family in Santa Barbara, California.

Tom Lazarus

Tom Lazarus was born and raised in New York City, New York. He started his career as a writer for such shows as *Charlie's Angels* and *Columbo*. He has also worked on *Hunter*, *Jake and The Fatman*, *Stingray*, *War of the Worlds*, *7 Lives Xposed*, and the feature film *Stigmata*. Lazarus also duals as a director for such films as *Movies Kill*, *Word of Mouth*, and most recently, *The Exhibitionist Files*.

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 Virtues*, *Scooby-Doo*, *The Real Adventures Of Johnny Quest*, *Pink Panther And Sons*, *Fantastic Four* and many more. His NBC prime time specials include *Tis The Season To Be Smurfy*, *The Twelve Days Of Christmas*, and the Emmy nominated *The Town Santa Forgot* starring Dick Van Dyke.

Among his feature-length animation credits are the best-selling direct-to-video *Scooby-Doo On Zombie Island* (3 million copies and counting! Zoinks!), *Scooby-Doo And The Witch's Ghost*, *Scooby-Doo And The Ghoul School*, and *A Flintstones' Christmas Carol*. He has also written live-action sitcoms, features (*The Prowler*, *Too Scared To Scream*) and is an accomplished singer-songwriter. His songs have appeared in Disney's *Doug*, *Tis The Season To Be Smurfy*, and there are nine (count 'em) on the Rhino Records CD of . He even had a hit record ("Back When My Hair Was Short" with his group Gunhill Road) that actually got him on American Bandstand. Cool, huh?

Word Farm Bios

Julie Marsh

Julie Marsh is a Producer, Writer, and Story Consultant with nearly 15 years of professional development and story editing experience. She works on projects at any point, from breaking raw story to story consulting in the editing room. Her clients are mainly professional screenwriters and producers, and her primary base of experience is theatrical film and spec pilots for television. Additionally, she works with professionals to adapt narratives between multiple mediums. Julie is fascinated by the new storytelling opportunities offered by emerging and converging technologies, particularly the web, and continues to apply proven story tactics to pioneering media endeavors. She has worked on countless treatments, pitch packages and pitches. Julie has written for Acclaim on MMO games and for Disney on TV cartoons. She has read as a judge for the Creative Screenwriting Expo Contest, Slamdance, and Cynosure. She was also invited as a mentoring filmmaker for the Duke City Shootout. She lectures occasionally at the Los Angeles Film School and holds an MFA in Screenwriting and a degree in Film Studies from UC Santa Barbara.

Cindy McCreery

Cindy McCreery is a graduate of the Walt Disney/ABC Feature Writing Fellowship program for the 2003-2004 year. Her script "The Powder Puffs" got her into the program and was brought to the studio by Producers Alfred Gough and Miles Milar and Robert Levy of Tapestry Films where Cindy pitched a new take on the script, which resulted in Disney purchasing the pitch. Cindy is a graduate of Film Studies from The University of California, Santa Barbara where she won the Corwin Award in screenwriting scholarship. After college she worked at The Montecito Picture Company as an executive assistant to Tom Pollock and prior to the fellowship she worked as a high school substitute teacher and girls high school volleyball coach while pursuing her writing career. After the sale of *Powder Puffs*, Cindy immediately wrote and sold her next feature spec script, *Soccer Mom* to New Line Cinema with Underground Films and Karz Entertainment as producers. In the fall of 2005 Tollin Robbins and Josephson Entertainment approached Cindy with the true story of Maria Pepe, the first girl to play in the Little League. Cindy came up with a pitch with the producers and sold the pitch to Nickelodeon Films. In 2006 National Geographic Films hired Cindy to rewrite *Elephant Wild* and later in 2007 in partnership with Warner Brothers, they hired her again to develop and write *Free Willy 4*. Also in 2007 Cindy sold a pitch of a revamped *Baby Boom* for MGM. Early this year, Disney Channel hired her to adapt the book, *Rising Star* into a Disney Channel Original movie. Cindy is currently finishing *Baby Boom*, *Rising Star* and pitching an original TV series idea to networks. She's been teaching intro to screenwriting at UCSB for the last three summers.

Michael Miner

Mr. Miner received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and Theater, and a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he wrote and directed *Labyrinths*, which won a Focus and Cine Eagle Award, *Alias Jane Doe*, which was exhibited at Deauville and Bilbao, and *Cosmographia*, which was exhibited at Filmex. While at UCLA he was also a cinematographer of ten student films including *Scarred*, which was exhibited commercially and *Fool's Dance*, which was produced by public television.

Mr. Miner's professional career includes time as a director of photography and director/cameraman of twenty music videos. As co-writer of *Robocop*, the very successful action story about the part man/part machine law enforcer of the future, Mr. Miner received the Saturn Award for Best Science Fiction Screenplay and a nomination for Best Screenplay by the Mystery Writers of America. He is also the co-writer of the pilot for *Robocop: The Television Show*, and writer of *Lawnmowerman II*, the science fiction sequel to the virtual reality story about an idiot savant trapped in a computer program. Mr. Miner made his debut as a writer/director with *Deadly Weapon*, a drama about a teenager who finds a prototype Star Wars weapon and uses it to take a desert town hostage. Most recently, he directed *The Book Of Stars*, magic realism about the troubled relationship between two sisters and the memory book one of them keeps that has the power to anticipate future events. Mr. Miner discovered the script while teaching a writing class at the Maine Photographic Workshops.

Mr. Miner has written screenplays for Oliver Stone, Sylvester Stallone and Michael Douglas. He is currently developing a feature film based on the true story of a friendship between a Franciscan priest and a gangster living in a ghetto in Kingston, Jamaica, a documentary on the history of jailhouse informants and perjured testimony, an action/thriller about a robbery during the Los Angeles Marathon and a futuristic thriller about genetic programming. He has taught writing seminars at the Maine Photographic Workshop, the University of Hawaii, the Southeastern Media Institute, the Praxis Center for Screenwriting, the University of California at Santa Barbara, California State University at Los Angeles and Central Juvenile Hall in Los Angeles.

Word Farm Bios

Harrison Reiner

Producer and Co-Writer of *Amar A Morir*, scheduled for a world premiere at the 2009 Santa Barbara International Film Festival, and newly selected to premiere at the Guadalajara Film Festival in Mexico and the Cartagena Film Festival in Colombia, those two countries' most important film festivals. The film stars 5 actors previously nominated for Mexico's Academy Award, and features original recordings by American Idol Top 4, Jason Castro, and 11-time Grammy Award-winner Sebastian Krays. Born in New York City, Reiner holds a B.F.A. in Drama from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he studied Stanislavsky acting technique with renowned master acting teacher Stella Adler, the only American to have studied with Stanislavsky himself. He studied classical acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, and subsequently undertook interdisciplinary graduate study in film, business, and law at Columbia University in the city of New York, where he earned an M.F.A. While in graduate school, he simultaneously worked in screenplay development for the Emmy Award-winning, Oscar-nominated PBS series *American Playhouse*. Since relocating to Los Angeles from his native New York, Reiner has worked steadily in film and television, first as Story Editor at RKO Pictures during the filming of John Sayles' *Eight Men Out*, then as Production Executive for Sovereign Pictures, co-distributors of *Reversal Of Fortune* (starring Glenn Close, Ron Silver, and Jeremy Irons), *Impromptu* (starring Hugh Grant, Judy Davis, Mandy Patinkin, and Bernadette Peters) and Academy Award-winning motion pictures *My Left Foot* (starring Daniel Day Lewis) and *Cinema Paradiso* (directed by Giuseppe Tornatore). He is an Editors Guild story analyst and has served as story analyst for CBS-Paramount Television, Universal Pictures, Sherry Lansing Productions in association with Paramount Pictures, Warner Brothers Feature Animation, the Samuel Goldwyn Company, and Turner Network Television. He is a longtime mentor to minority filmmakers, having mentored emerging Latino and African-American writers, directors, and producers at the National Association of Latino Independent Producers Latino Writers Lab and Producers Academy, the Hollywood Black Film Festival, and at the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival. Reiner has lectured on screenwriting at the Producers Guild of America, the Directors Guild of America, the Organization of Black Screenwriters, and at the Scottish Film Academy at Napier University in Edinburgh. He's taught story development at U.C.L.A. Extension, writing for short film in the M.F.A. Directing Program at U.C.L.A.'s School of Film and Television and writing for feature film in its Professional Screenwriting Program.

Cheri Steinkellner

Cheri Steinkellner has earned four Emmys, three Golden Globes, two Writers Guild Awards, a People's Choice, Parents' Choice, and a BAFTA, for writing and producing television (*Cheers*, *Jeffersons*, *Family Ties*, etc), and animation and film (Disney's *Teacher's Pet*, etc). For stage, she has written the books for *Princesses* (with David Zippel, Matthew Wilder, and Bill Steinkellner – NAMT 2003, Goodspeed Norma Terris 2003, Seattle 5th Avenue Theater 2004); *Sister Act* (with Alan Menken, Glenn Slater, and Bill Steinkellner – Pasadena Playhouse 2006, Alliance Theater, Atlanta 2007, opening London Palladium June 2, 2009), and now, *Hello! My Baby* (with Irving Berlin, Gus Kahn, Shelton Brooks, Joe McCarthy, George M. Cohan, Jeff Rizzo, etc -!). When not writing for stage and screens, Cheri teaches writing at the University of California; directs local high school and junior high school musicals; and has created "The Ultimate Write-off" (a competitive writing event at the Santa Barbara Writers Conference). Cheri and her husband Bill live in Santa Barbara with their three favorite children: Kit, Teddy, and Emma.

Joel Thompson

Joel Thompson started his career in 2003 on *Boomtown*, where he worked as a story editor and writer. He has also written for *House M.D.* and *Battlestar Galactica*. In addition to being Executive Story Editor on staff at *Battlestar Galactica* he is currently writing a feature screenplay project for Completion Films. Thompson earned an M.F.A. from New York University Tisch School of the Arts in the field of dramatic writing for film, theatre, and television. He had taught at both the college level and high school. His father is a professor and his mother is a grade school teacher. Their background has certainly had its impact on Thompson. He views teaching as being among the most fundamental and sacred arts. That said, if laughter and or a comfortable atmosphere that promotes sharing in class are not intertwined with the lessons of the day, Thompson states, then it's not being done right.

Word Farm Bios

Ian Weinreich

Ian was part of the UCSB Film Studies Class of 2004. He was the 2003 recipient of the Paul and Elinor Lazarus Award for Screenwriting. He graduated with his MFA from NYU's master program in dramatic writing at Tisch in 2008 and has worked for Playboy TV, ESPN, Nickelodeon, and *Saturday Night Live*. He currently works for Spyglass Entertainment in Los Angeles.

David Michael Wieger

David Michael Wieger's career as a writer spans a wide range of media. His prose, poetry and short fiction have appeared in numerous literary journals in the United States and he has taught creative writing classes and workshops in California. His plays have been produced to critical acclaim in Chicago, Los Angeles, Amherst and Santa Barbara, California. As a screenwriter, David received a prestigious Sundance scholarship, where he worked closely with some of the top screenwriters and directors in the field. David's ability to create compelling and unique characters has attracted creative collaborations with several leading actors, including Malcolm McDowell, and Dustin Hoffman. David has produced screenplays for many of the major studios including his film *Wild America* (Warner Brothers.) David lives with his wife, Saral, their dog, Enzo, and Floyd and Earl, their two cats, in Santa Barbara, California.

Student Attendees

Darek Cioch

Hunter Daniels

Laura Foody

Kyle Fuller

Tom Furniss

Brian Granger

Dylan Grozdanich

Cheyenne Gustason

Rary Hicks

Elyse G. Hollander

Robert Holzmann

Taylor Hungerford

Matt Kelley

Ali Lassoued

Cindy Lieu

Woo Lovinger

Mark Pachulski

Melissa Perez

Caitlin Moyer

Omar Najam

Emilia Resella

Brittany Sandler

Cody Simmons

Sarah Sloat

Ryan Swindell

Catherine Smyth-McMullen

Jasmin Toutouchi

Josefina Valenzuela Cerda

Kyle Valenzuela

Annie Wilkes

Special Thanks

The Film and Media Studies Department

The UCSB Screenwriters' Co-op

The Office of Student Life

Associated Students

The Writer's Guild of America

All of our Guests

The Event Staff

Frescos

Spice Avenue

Mandarin Palace

Lauren Zabel

Cristina Venegas

Lisa Parks

Paul Portuges

Victoria Duncan

Dana Welch

Flora Furlong

Keith Boynton

Toni Graphia

Ryan Hedge

Mike Takeuchi

Jon O'Brien

Kim Coonen

