



**WORD FARM 2012**  
**JAN 20-22ND**



## 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*

### 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

9:30-12:00 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 blockbusters including the 1988 *Twins*, *Johnny English*, *Alien Autopsy*, *Flushed Away*, 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 Kim writes the occasional story for Marvel and DC Comics. In the past, he's written for the *Justice League Showcase Giant*, *Superman*, *Dexter's Lab*, *Powerpuff Girls* and various *Secret Files*. Chuck's *Dexter'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

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' *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* than 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 *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 was writing, 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, writing seven Movies of the Week including *Hear No Evil* and *The Ordeal of Bill Carney* and working as a staff writer/producer for nine network series such as *Hunter*, *Jake and the Fatman*, *Starman*, *Stingray*, *Mike Hammer*, and *War of the Worlds*. His feature credits include the original story for George Burns/Brooke Shields motion picture *Just You and Me, Kid*, the script for the Swedish made *Revenge and Justice* and the #1 film in America upon its release, *Stigmata*. He has had nine feature films made from his original screenplays. Tom Lazarus has directed five feature films: *Movies Kill*, *Word of Mouth*, *House of Love*, *Voyeur Confessions*, and *Exhibitionist 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. Martin's Press published Mr. Lazarus' book *Secrets of Film Writing*. Presently, Tom is finishing his novel *House of Pain*. Mr. Lazarus has taught screenwriting and advanced screenwriting for the last twelve years at UCLA Extension. He has also taught undergraduate screenwriting at the University of California 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 Ruby 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 Virtues*, *Scooby-Doo, The Real Adventures of Johnny Quest*, *Pink Panther and Sons*, *Fantastic Four* and many more. His NBC primetime 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 bestselling 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 accomplished singer-songwriter. His songs have appeared in Disney's *Doug*, *Tis the Season to Be Smurfy*, and there are nine on the Rhino Records CD's. He even had a hit record ("*Back When My Hair Was Short*" with his group Gunhill Road) that actually got him on American Bandstand. His Gunhill Road album was recently reissued on CD by Wounded Bird Records.

### Tara Miele

Tara Miele's first short film, *Miss Gentilbelle*, based on the Charles Beaumont story of the same name, earned several grants and awards including the Corwin-Metropolitan Theatres Award. The film premiered at the Slamdance 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 "Best of Fest" at the Newport Beach Film Festival. Clocking in at a mere minute and a half, the short parables the downfall of Junior High royalty. While writing and directing theatre in Los Angeles, Tara, along with writing partner Kristine M. Skeie, sold her first script, *Cougars*, to Gold Circle Films. She also completed her passion project, a coming of age dramedy entitled *Tits*, which Silverwood Films snatched up the rights to, with Tara attached to direct. In 2007, New Line Cinema preemptively purchased Miele and Skeie's romantic comedy pitch, *Cover Your Assets*. The project has found a new home at Lionsgate. Most recently, Tara directed her first feature film, *The Lake Effect*, starring Ross Partridge and Kay Panabaker (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.

## Word Farm Bios

### 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 the Deauville and Bilbao film festivals, 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 PBS. 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 iconic 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*, produced by Sky TV and *Anacondas: Search for the Blood Orchid*, the action adventure sequel about humans battling deadly snakes. His solo writing credits include *Lawnmowerman II*, the science fiction sequel to the virtual reality story about an idiot savant trapped in a computer program and his debut as a writer/director, *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, an erotic thriller situated on the campus of Harvard University, and two television series, one about Juvenile Justice in America and the other about the dystopian aspects of digital information. He has taught screenwriting at the Maine Photographic Workshops, the University of Hawaii, the Southeastern Media Insitute, the Praxis Center for Screenwriting in Vancouver, UCSB, CSULA, and the InsideOut Writers Program for incarcerated juveniles in Los Angeles County.

### Tom Silvestri

Tom Silvestri graduated from the NYU Film School, studied at USC’s Professional Writing Program, and studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York City. He has worked as a musician, music journalist, book club editor, story analyst, development executive, and screenwriter, reading and developing movie 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 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, currently playing the London Palladium, opening on Broadway Spring 2011); *Mosaic* (with Georgia Stitt, opening off-Broadway in April); and *Hello! My Baby* (with the great composers of the Golden Age of Tin Pan Alley and Georgia Stitt). When not writing for stage and screens, Cheri teaches writing at the University of California; directs local youth productions including *Rent* (named Best Youth Theater production 2009 by Santa Barbara Independent), *A Chorus Line*, *Anything Goes*, *Fiddler On the Roof*, and *Our Town*; and created “The Ultimate Write-off” for the Santa Barbara Writers Conference). Her new musical *Hello! My Baby* opens this March at the Rubicon Theatre in Ventura, then at Lobero here in Santa Barbara. Cheri and her favorite husband Bill live in Santa Barbara with their three favorite children: Kit, Teddy, and Emma.

### Ron Suppa

Ron’s career spans more than 35 years as an entertainment attorney, executive, and as a writer or producer of a dozen feature films. Currently, he is a highly in-demand script doctor and production consultant for producers, directors, writers, actors, and various international film production companies. Graduating at the top of his Wisconsin Law School class, Ron joined the Los Angeles firm of Mitchell, Silberberg & Knupp, where his practice concentrated on the representation of major studios, high-profile producers and directors, and celebrity talent such as Paul Newman, Warren Beatty, Steve McQueen, Jack Nicholson, Michelle Pfeiffer and Goldie Hawn. He also practiced with the New York firm of Pryor, Cashman & Sherman and Krintzman & Suppa in LA. Ron made the move to the production side of filmmaking with his first Produced By credit for Universal Pictures at age 27, *Paradise Alley*, starring Sylvester Stallone. *Riding the Edge* for Trans-World Entertainment was Ron’s first sole screenplay credit. A member of the Writer’s Guild of America since 1984, Ron has written and/or produced 12 feature films and six Made for Television movies, and stewarded through production 14 additional films as President or Executive in charge of Production for Force Ten Productions, Kodiak Films, Atlantic Releasing Corp., and Ronald Suppa Productions, Inc. In the spirit of giving back, Ron has served for more than 20 years as Senior Instructor of Screenwriting in the world’s largest adult education program, UCLA Extension, where he was honored with The Outstanding Instructor Award. His books include *This Business of Screenwriting* (Ifilm, 1999) and the bestselling *Real Screenwriting: Strategies and Stories from the Trenches* (Thomson Course Technology, 2006). Ron has also been honored as Visiting Professor of Film at The University of Miami and The London College of Art, and has been a lecturer at the international American University and at Disney Animation Studios, Dreamworks, Twentieth Century Fox, Universal Studios and Miramax Films. He has been profiled on numerous TV and radio specials, including features on the Fox Network, BBC television, Radio Four in London, the Australian Broadcasting Network and Tokyo National Television. Many of the over 10,000 writers taught by Ron have gone on to achieve significant success, with credits in 16 Emmy or Oscar nominated films.

## Word Farm Bios

### Bryce Zabel

CNN correspondent-turned-screenwriter Bryce Zabel has created five primetime network television series and worked on a dozen TV writing staffs. An on-screen credited feature writer in both live-action and animation, he has written and produced for nearly all major networks and studios and collaborated with talents like Steven Spielberg, Stan Lee and David E. Kelley. Bryce recently scripted a trio of film assignments based on options to true stories: *Majic Men*, about the Roswell investigators; *The Last Battle*, about the final week of World War II in Europe; and Let’s Do It, about the first full-length student film ever produced. Bryce is now working on *Shades of Gray*, the original missing time story of Betty and Barney Hill. In 2008, Bryce received the Writers Guild of America (WGA) award for writing his third four-hour Hallmark mini-series, *Pandemic*. He has received credit on produced films and miniseries that include *Atlantis: The Lost Empire*, *Mortal Kombat: Annihilation*, *Blackbeard*, and *The Poseidon Adventure*. He wrote SyFy’s first original film, *Official Denial*, and the first film in the Unsolved Mysteries MOW franchise, *Victim of Love*. Bryce served as the elected chairman/CEO of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and was responsible for the post 9/11 Emmy awards as well as the negotiations which led to an unprecedented 250 percent license fee increase for the telecast. He has been an award-winning on-air PBS investigative reporter, an adjunct professor at the USC School of Cinematic Arts and is a member of the Directors Guild of America (DGA), AFTRA and the WGA. His non-fiction book, *A.D. After Disclosure: The People’s Guide to Life After Contact* has just been picked up for spring 2012 publication by New York’s Career Press. The rights have already been optioned for development as a weekly television series by Stellar Productions in association with Electric Farm Entertainment. In addition to the Emmy-winning *Dark Skies* (released on DVD 2011), Bryce has received the WGA “created by” or “developed by” credit on *Kay O’Brien* (CBS),*M.A.N.T.I.S.* (FOX), *The Crow: Stairway to Heaven* (SYN) and *E.N.G.* (CTV). His other series work includes Steven Spielberg’s *Taken*, *L.A. Law*, *Life Goes On* and *Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*. Besides three WGA nominations and one win, his work has been nominated by the Environmental Media Association, Mystery Writers of America and the LA Emmy awards. Bryce also created and edits the film review website, *Movie Smackdown!*

### Jackie Zabel

For Jackie Zabel, good things definitely come in threes. She’s a triple threat as a writer/producer, mother of three children, and someone who holds three college degrees. In 2008, Jackie won the prestigious Writer’s Guild of America award “Best Long form Original,” for the Hallmark mini-series *Pandemic*. The next year, she won the Gourmand Award for authoring the “Best Fundraising Cookbook” in the world for a celebrity charity cookbook titled, *The Hollywood Cookbook: Good Food, Great Causes*. A combination of proceeds and corporate sponsorship fueled donations to 20 different charities named by celebrities appearing in the book. She also assisted Bryce in producing a \$600 million dollar fundraising variety show for the University of Oregon. In the summer of 2001, Jackie was the only woman to have a writing credit on the major Disney summer release, “Atlantis: The Lost Empire.” Jackie was hired as a writer for Aaron Spelling Productions. She had a first look deal, and also worked on a television pilot resurrection of the *Charlie’s Angels* franchise. Much of the rethinking that went into the characters then, remains in the movie franchise today. Female-themes remained a specialty for Jackie as she wrote a television movie for NBC entitled “Camp Mom.” She also optioned an original script called *Robot Mom* to Nickelodeon. Jackie also has written or developed stories for television episodes including, *The Crow: Stairway to Heaven*, and *M.A.N.T.I.S.* When Bryce was elected Chairman/CEO of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 2001, Jackie took on “first lady” duties. She attended many industry functions as well as multiple Emmy Awards ceremonies. She also served as a founding member of the “ATAS Cares” committee, a group committed to good works in the entertainment community. She wrote the script for the inaugural event, a fashion show benefiting a charity called *Dress for Success*. Jackie began her career as a journalist in Los Angeles. She served as a news writer-producer, and fill-in anchor at various local stations including KCBS-TV, KCOP-TV, and KHJ-AM. Since both of Jackie’s parents are medical doctors, it’s not surprising that she found herself producing health news at KCBS as well as Cable Health Network. Also, she earned recognition from the Los Angeles Press Club for her work. Jackie often works co-writing and/or editing on her husband, writer-producer Bryce Zabel’s projects.

### Marc Scott Zicree

Marc Scott Zicree’s landmark book *The Twilight Zone Companion* has been credited with creating the modern genre of books on TV series and inspiring a generation of series creators and filmmakers. *The Companion* was an instant bestseller (over a half million copies to date) and named in 2006 by the New York Times one of “ten science fiction books for the ages,” the only non-fiction book on the list. Zicree is an alumnus of the Clarion Writers Workshop, the most esteemed science fiction writing workshop in the country. Graduating UCLA, he went on to a successful career as a writer-producer in film and TV, serving on staff on such shows as *Sliders*, *The Lazarus Man*, *Friday the 13th – The Series* and *Beyond Reality*. He has sold over 100 teleplays, screenplays and pilots to every major studio and network, including landmark stories for such shows as *Star Trek – The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, *The New Twilight Zone*, *Babylon 5*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Forever Knight*, *Sliders*, *Liberty’s Kids*, *Superfriends*, *He-Man*, *Real Ghostbusters* and *Smurfs*. He’s written about his odd family in features and pilots for CBS, NBC and Showtime. Zicree is regarded as one of the country’s top media experts and has been interviewed by hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and TV and radio shows, including *The Today Show*, *American Masters*, *All Things Considered*, *Entertainment Tonight*, *E! True Hollywood Story*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and *LA Times*. Beyond his three-year stint as a commentator on NPR’s Morning Edition he is a regular guest on Coast to Coast, one of the country’s top rated night-time radio shows. In addition, Zicree is a lauded novelist with the bestselling *Magic Time* trilogy, published by HarperCollins and Blackstone Audio. Zicree has lectured at many colleges, professional conferences and museums in America, Europe and Asia, including USC, UCLA, Stanford and Ithaca, where he was a keynote speaker. Over the last decade with his wife Elaine, he has taught classes for thousands of writers, directors, actors and producers, guiding them to successful careers in film, TV and books. Their classes have been glowingly reported on by such magazines as WRITTEN BY, SCRIPT and CREATIVE SCREENWRITING, and the Writers Store named their DVD on How To Sell a TV Series one of “ten essentials for a screenwriting career.” Beyond this, Zicree is founder and for the last nineteen years has run The Table.

# Special Thanks

---

The Film and Media Studies Department

The UCSB Screenwriters' Co-op

The Writer's Guild of America

All of our Guests

The Event Staff

Cristina Venegas

Harrison Reiner

Paul Portuges

Kathy Murray

Dana Welch

Flora Furlong

Keith Boynton

Dierdre O'Shea

Julie Cunningham

Super Cucas

Sam's To Go

Naan Stop

