Online Class #2:Before You Begin To Write Your Screenplay

Welcome!

"I am almost done with my play, all I have to do is write it."

with
Ashley Scott Meyers

Introduction:

Wait! It's not time to start writing, yet.

Introduction:

Having a clear beginning, middle, and end will put you ahead of 97% of the other screenplays out there. Really.

The Log Line

So you have a marketable concept for your screenplay?

SellingYourScreenplay.com
with
Ashley Scott Meyers

The Log Line

The log line can help you stay on track when you're writing your screenplay.

Selling Your Screenplay.com
with Ashley Scott Meyers

The Log Line

How do you write a good log line?

http://www.sellingyourscreenplay.com/how-to-sell-your-screenplay/writing-a-screenplay-logline/

Tips on Writing a Good Log Line

A good log line will:
- Describe your protagonist and his main goal
- Include a clear antagonist
- Clearly layout the main conflict
- Hint at the resolution
- Convey the tone and scope of the film

Common Log Line Problem #1

The log line only describes the story's set up.

A Kansas farm girl gets swept up in a tornado and transported to the magical land of Oz.

Common Log Line Problem #2

The log line only describes the protagonist's internal story or arch.

A Kansas farm girl learns to appreciate her home after an adventure in a magical land.

SellingYourScreenplay.com with Ashley Scott Meyers

The Wizard of Oz Log Line

After a Kansas farm girl is transported to a magical land, she must steal a wicked witch's broom for a magician who has the power to send her home.

The Log Line

Are you having trouble with your log line?

Screenplay Structure

I'm not going to spend a lot of time on this today, but it's very very very important!

If you want to learn more about screenplay structure please go read Syd Field's *Screenplay* and Blake Snyder's *Save The Cat*. Hopefully you've already read them!

The Screenplay Outline

with
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The Blake Snyder Beat Sheet

1. Opening image (1)
2. Theme Stated (5)
3. Set-Up (1-10)
4. Catalyst (12)
5. Debate (12-25)
6. Break into Two (25)
7. B Story (30)
8. Fun and Games (30-55)
9. Midpoint (55)
10. Bad Guys Close In (55-75)
11. All Is Lost (75)
12. Dark Night of the Soul (75-85)
13. Break into Three (85)
14. Finale (85-110)
15. Final Image (110)

The Logistics of Doing an Outline

Start with the Blake Snyder Beat Sheet and expand from there.

Don't Feel Guilty

Don't feel guilty while outlining. Outlining is writing!

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Please Outline!

But don't outline forever.

My Way Isn't The Only Way

Knowing Where Your Film Fits In With Other Films

Know Your Characters

with
Ashley Scott Meyers

Know Your Ending

It's the last thing people remember, so make it count.

My Process

Exercises

- Do some log lines for famous films like I have done for the Wizard of Oz.
- Do some log lines for some scripts you've already written.
- Do some Blake Snyder beat sheets for famous movies.
- Do some Blake Snyder beat sheets for your past screenplays.

Questions?

Thank You For Joining Me Today!