

Welcome!

## Writing a Great Ending to Your Screenplay



## Citizen Kane

- Question asked and answered.
- Setup and payoff



Momento

• Mystery unravelled



#### The Graduate

#### • Emotion trumps logic



Rocky

- Emotional high
- Underdog wins
- Back and forth, high and lows, within Act III



## The Shawshank Redemption

- Emotional high
- Greatest ending of all time?



# Pulp Fiction

- Clear, concise character arc
- Character ultimately defined through action, not just talking



Seven

• Down endings can be emotionally satisfying, too



#### The Sixth Sense

#### • Clever twist



## The Usual Suspects

#### • Clever (unfair?) twist



## Planet of the Apes

• Memorable last image



#### Blake Snyder's Third Act story beats

(From Save the Cat! Strikes Back)

- 1. Gathering the Team
- 2. Executing the Plan
- 3. The High Tower Surprise
- 4. Dig, Deep Down
- 5. The Execution of the New Plan



## Questions?

# Questions? Comments? Don't be shy!