

Willamette Writers 2016 FiLMLaB

Short Screenplay Contest Guidelines and Rules:

Willamette Writers is soliciting short scripts for our 2016 FiLMLaB Contest. This unique contest involves not only judging scripts and picking a winner, but also **FILMING** the winning script, **PRODUCING** the resulting short film, and **SCREENING** it at the 2016 Willamette Writers Conference. The winning script's writer will also be provided an introduced **MEETING** with a Hollywood film producer at the Conference.

Guidelines and Rules are as follows:

General

Scripts will be judged on their use of required prompts, creativity, and writing, but also on their ability to be successfully produced for FiLMLaB, as provided by the Production Guidelines below.

Scripts

Scripts must be in English, typed, and in industry-accepted screenplay format. Scripts must be written in 12-pt, Courier or similar font.

Maximum of 7 pages (as normally formatted on standard 8.5x11 paper).

Story

Scripts will be judged as self-contained stories, not scenes from larger works. All genres accepted. The ideal script will reflect the FiLMLaB's "experimental" nature, and the prompt or theme provided on the FiLMLaB website at www.willamettewriters.org/wwfilm.

No pornography or graphic violence. FiLMLaB and the Contest judges may disqualify a script from consideration if the subject matter or content of the script is, at the judges' sole discretion, not suitable for screening at the FiLMLaB Event at this year's Conference.

Production

Location: Script must take place predominantly in one, normally available indoor location accessible from within the Portland metro area. Consider that specific, public locations (libraries, schools, etc.) may need to be reproduced or substituted, depending on the availability and cost of required permits. Beware that additional or exotic locations are not disqualifying, but may be negatively considered by FiLMLaB and the Contest Judges.

Cast: Maximum of 4 main characters. Additional minor characters or "extras" are acceptable, but beware that scenes requiring a "crowd" may be un-producible.

Effects: Hey, Spielberg, we don't have access to George Lucas' studio, so consider that any special effects or makeup designs will be done with cardboard and Maybelline, if at all. Extensive wardrobe requirements may also be a detriment.

Submissions

1) Create a PDF version of your script that contains no personal information (we will distribute these to the judges to allow for anonymity). On the title page, list only the title of your script,

along with “FiLMLaB 2016” and a four-digit code of your choosing (so we can tell scripts with identical titles apart).

2) Use the Submittable link provided on the willamettewriters.org/wwfilm website to submit your script.

3) To be considered, your submission and payment must be received by Willamette Writers by midnight on March 26th, 2016 (PST).

Eligibility

Members of the Willamette Writers Board, Committees, and FiLMLaB judges and personnel are not eligible to participate. Previous FiLMLaB Grand Prize winners are not eligible to participate.

Legal Mumbo-Jumbo

By entering the FiLMLaB Competition, entrants affirm that the submitted script is their own work, and that the entrants have not previously sold, assigned or licensed any rights to the script. Entrants understand their submitted work will be distributed and viewed by multiple judges and FiLMLaB production personnel. Scripts will not be returned. Entrants agree to hold Willamette Writers Inc. (a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization), the Willamette Writers Conference, and FiLMLaB production team harmless with respect to any claims (including, but not limited to, claims related to intellectual property, defamation, or any other tortuous acts) arising from the acts of any individuals not acting within the scope of their duties to the Willamette Writers Conference.

Legal Mumbo-Jumbo for the Winning Script

Editorial Control: The Entrant agrees that, if entrant’s script is produced into a film, the resulting film may vary in form or content from the submitted script, owing to artistic choices by the director or to production needs and limitations. Entrant understands and agrees that Willamette Writers, through its production team, will have final artistic and editorial control over the resulting film.

Ownership: In exchange for the expense and effort expended by Willamette Writers, Inc. and the production team in producing the Film based on the Entrant’s script, Entrant agrees to fully assign and transfer Entrant’s ownership and copyright interest in the winning script to Willamette Writers, who shall be the owner of the completed film. Entrant understands Willamette Writers may exhibit and promote this Film on an ongoing basis, at film festivals, Willamette Writers events, and the Film may be available for viewing online.

This is not to suggest that the author will not have access to the completed film. On the contrary, we hope the winning writer will use the film and their experience collaborating with the production team to elevate their screenwriting career. To that end, we encourage the writer to share the film on their website and in film festivals of their choosing, and to use it as a calling card when seeking professional work.

In keeping with our nonprofit status, Willamette Writers does not seek to profit from the FiLMLaB contest, but rather to encourage the careers, craftsmanship and community of its member writers.