



June 9-12, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2004

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Waterfront Film Festival New Screenwriting Competition

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Waterfront Film Festival will hold its first screenwriting competition, culminating in a staged reading of the winning screenplay at the 2005 Waterfront Film Festival.

The screenwriting competition is designed to discover and promote talented new voices from Michigan and the surrounding region. The competition will be open to non-professional writers who were born in, or currently reside in, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin; high school or college alumni from those four states are also eligible.

Screenwriter Dina Marie Chapman, a member of the festival's film selection committee, and former Hollywood development executive Carrie Cook, will oversee the competition. "It's something we've been discussing with the festival founders for a few years now," said Chapman, "The screenwriting seminars consistently sell out, and I have spoken to many aspiring writers here at the festival over the years. One of the main questions people have is how they can get their screenplay to the right people, to an agent or producer, without connections. It's our goal to be that connection."

In addition to the staged reading by professional actors at next year's festival, the winning writer will have meetings with a literary agent or manager to discuss representation and will have their screenplay read by top film producers and production companies.

Cook, who has worked for producers such as Neal Moritz (Cruel Intentions, I Know What You Did Last Summer, Sweet Home Alabama) and Scott Rudin (School of Rock, Zoolander, Stepford Wives), knows from experience that breaking in to Hollywood can be very difficult for a new writer. "It's definitely hard," said Cook, "Which is why I'm so excited about the caliber of literary agents, managers and producers who have already agreed to read the winning screenplay. This is a real opportunity for an undiscovered writer out there."

Complete information along with official rules and regulations can be found on the Waterfront Film Festival website at www.waterfrontfilm.org. The entry fee for the competition is \$40 per submitted screenplay, and the submission deadline is January 15, 2005.

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FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

Dana DePree • Dori DePree • Hopwood DePree • Kori Eldean • Judy Smith