



# SCREENWRITER

# Mentor

# PROGRAM



# WHAT IS MENTORSHIP?



Screenwriter Paul Schrader (Taxi Driver, Raging Bull, Mosquito Coast, ) Mentoring

**S**creenwriting Mentorship is a professional alternative to film school. We are cheaper, you will get mentored by an industry professional, and lastly; our mentorship program is designed to connect you to the professional industry. - 3 things that most film schools fail to achieve.



# WHY? MENTORSHIP

While many Universities offer great screenwriting programs, most fail to land their graduates a career.

This is not only a problem with failing to connect their students to the industry. It's also because they fail to teach them how to write for the industry.

Knowing what to write and how to write the kind of script the industry wants are two different things.

Being mentored and taught screenwriting by an established industry professional, makes all the difference and that is why Screenwriting Mentorship is not only an alternative it is for many successful screenwriters, the better alternative.

Since we began teaching screenwriters in this way, I have trained 12 screenwriters. Seven of them has now had their screenplays optioned. 2 have sold their screenplays and one has recently been commissioned to write a screenplay for an Independent Production company.

That is why !!!



# WHAT WILL YOU RECEIVE?

## PERSONALIZED MENTORING

The program is not a generic "one-size- fits- all" program. We design the curriculum together with you. It will be guided by your needs, your interest, and your unique talent.

## A PERSONAL MENTOR

Throughout the program, you will be taught by your private mentor; someone who will be dedicated to developing your specific, unique talent.

## ADVANCED LESSONS

You won't find the lessons we teach in any books. Screenwriting books are often not written by screenwriters. The lessons we provide represents the actual craft used in the industry. We teach it using a combination of theory and practical writing exercises.

## PROFESSIONEL NOTES

One crucial factor that improves your writing is the steady flow of professional industry-standard comments you receive on your writing. It's not only the comments themselves but also the fact that they are continuous - that a professional follow your progress, each step of the way.



# MORE THINGS YOU WILL RECIEVE

## TWO SCREENPLAYS

At the end of the Mentorship, you will have written two screenplays. - better than anything you've written before.

## WRITING EXERCISES

A hugely important part of our method involves the weekly writing exercises that you'll receive. Each exercise relates directly to an issue that you are dealing with in your screenplay. In fact; you will write an entire script by solving exercises, one at a time.

## WRITTEN LESSONS

Throughout the program, you will receive written lessons with instructions, that apply to the specific issue you are working with in your writing.

## PERKS

On occasion, and if it is right for your process, you will also recieve free books



# HOW DO THE LESSONS WORK?

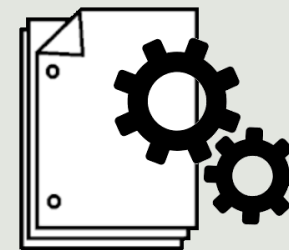
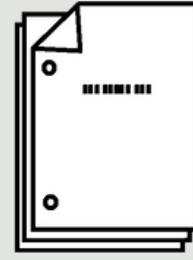




The Lessons you will receive, work as a 'One on One' individualized session with your mentor on Skype. A session runs anywhere from 2 to 3 full hours, twice a month. During these lessons, you will be given writing assignments, your work will be evaluated, you will receive advanced theory lessons and lastly; you will complete two screenplays.

The Mentor program runs for one year. During that time each student will meet with the Mentor twice a month for in-depth private tutoring via Skype.

Each Skype session runs for 3 hours or more in which you receive training in the following areas:



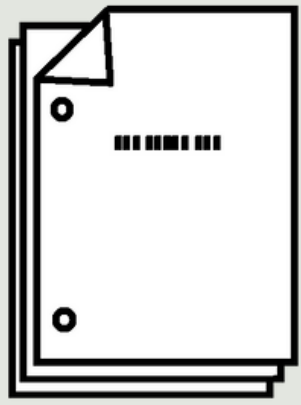
SCREENPLAY  
ANALYSIS

PRACTICAL  
SCREENWRITING

STORY CONCEPT  
DEVELOPMENT

INDUSTRY INSIGHT





# ADVANCED SCREENWRITING

Writing a professional script takes much more than just applying the 3-act structure to a story. A professional writer has to be extremely well acquainted with the many writing devices and conventions that go into each specific genre. - Important techniques, you won't find in any book. A mystery writer has to know the different variations of the red herring technique if she wants to trick the audience and a Thriller writer has to know the more than 20 different ways of how to manipulate suspense and so on.

Likewise, A screenwriter of any genre, have to know how to effectively deal with exposition, with story suspense, with different layers of dialogue, as well as how to handle 4 and 5 act structure, character development, theme and message, and many other things.

During the Mentor Program, these are principles we will teach you through theoretical lessons, fun writing exercises as well as in our constructive notes on your writing.





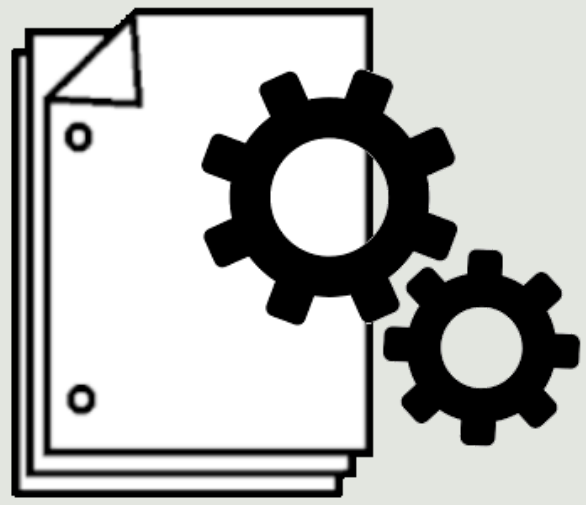
# SCREENPLAY ANALYSIS

Understanding how screenplays work is an important tool to master the craft of screenwriting. On a practical level, this involves reading many selected screenplays, good as well as bad.

But the reading of them only teaches you so much. It is the analysis that follows that is important. Here, you will learn how to decipher good from bad writing. And once you can do that in other screenplays, than your own, it is easier to apply the lessons to your won writing. Together with you, we will break down several screenplays in term of technique and craft. We will look at how it applies to your won writing and then apply it.

Your personal Mentor will provide you with all necessary tools of analysis, as well as the screenplays and the assignments.





# PRACTICAL SCREENWRITING

Practical screenwriting is the heart of everything we teach.

Whether we teach you the theory of screenwriting, Screenplay Analysis or Story development, It is all done in a very practical way.

You will be given writing assignments and your work will be evaluated and all theory we teach you is directly related to the screenplay you are writing. Theory for theories sake, as is it taught in Universities, will not do you any good the day you are on a contract to deliver a script to a studio and you are facing killer deadlines.

With the Mentor Program, you will be writing two screenplays from scratch and every step of the way, you will be writing it as a series of small writing exercises - exercises that will be taught and evaluated with your mentor.





# STORY CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

One of the most important reasons why it is so hard to sell a screenplay is the problem with Story Concepts. Most concepts are far from strong enough to be salable. And since the Concept is the foundation of story, we put a lot of energy and effort into teaching Concept development as a specialized subject.

You will learn how to create great and original concepts of the sort that the industry wants using a variety of techniques such as the 12 Story concepts, High and Low concept, and all the possible combinations of Story Arena, Genre and platform. - Techniques used by some of the industries top story developers.





# INDUSTRY INSIGHT

How does the industry actually work? Where and how do you sell your screenplay and how do you go about it? Most young writers forget that if you want to be a professional, you will be working for the movie industry. So, you better get to know how that industry works, how they go about buying screenplays, what kind of screenplays you can sell and which you can't.

These are but half the subjects that we deal with. The other half deals with you as a writer;

What are your strengths and how do you focus on them and develop them, better? What direction should you pursue in your writing and how do you do it?

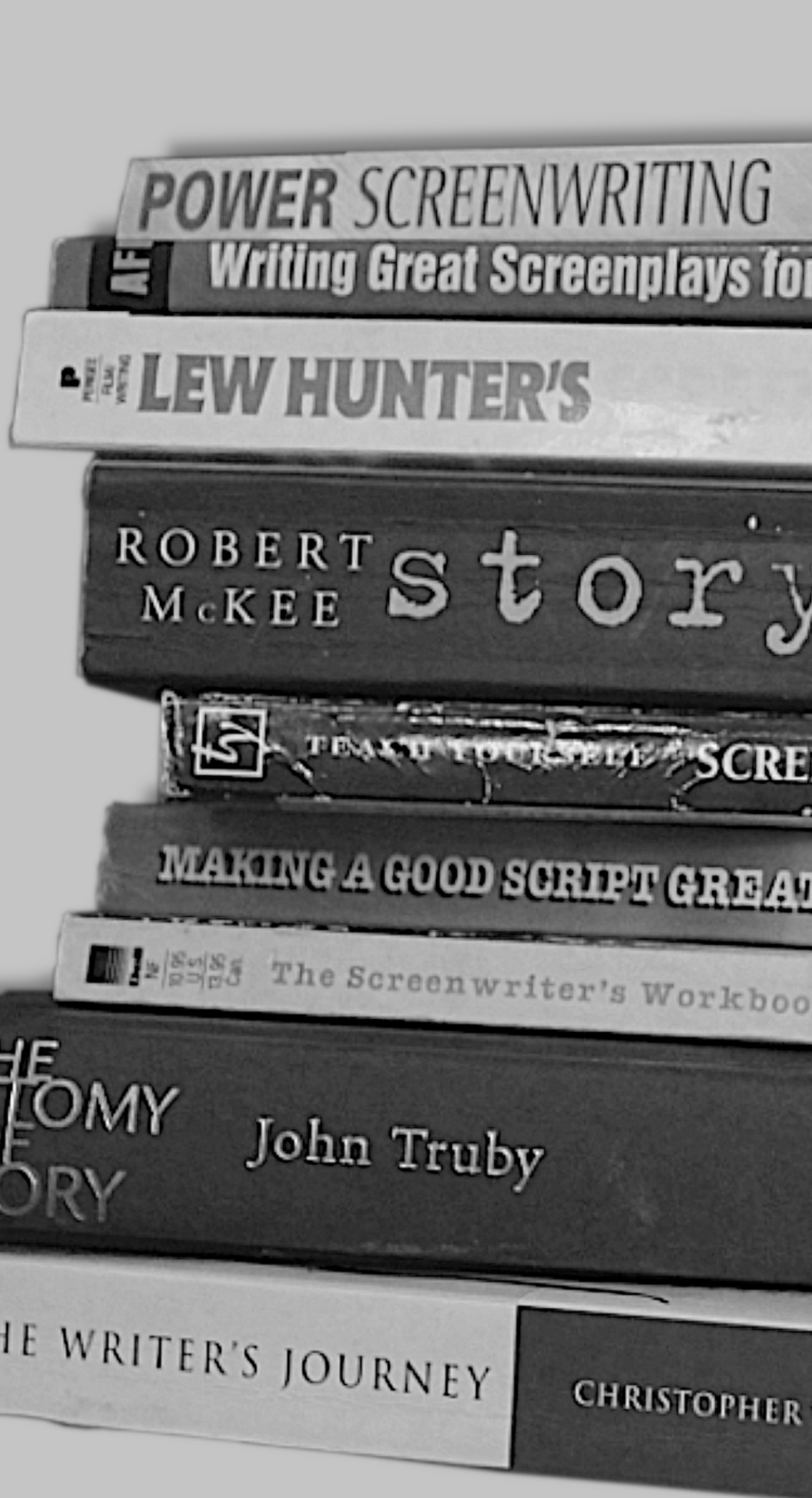
The most important decision you will ever make as a writer is determining what kind of screenwriter you are. Recognizing your own strengths and developing those are paramount to success in the business. Too many young writers waste years in trying to write something that they are not good at rather than focusing on their unique talent. This is why, having a professional Mentor by your side, is an invaluable tool.





# CURRICULUM





The program is divided into two parts, each 6 months long. During the first semester, you will learn how to develop and write a screenplay, the Industry way. You will receive lessons on Skype and in between lessons, writing exercises.

Each lesson is designed to help you with your own screenplay.

We do not teach theory that is not immediately applicable to the students' screenplay.

These exercises are evaluated during the first 20 minutes of each Skype session.

The semester ends with the successful completion of what we call the "Practice run screenplay"

This is primarily a screenplay that she will write to learn the craft.

During the second semester, you will begin working on your final screenplay. You will leave the program with two completed screenplays - written with guidance by working industry professionals.

After the course, we will work with the student to sell and promote her screenplay, using our industry contacts.

SCREENWRITER MENTOR PROGRAM LESSON SCHEDULE FOR: ANNA KUPCHAN DECEMBER 2017			
DRAMATIC TENSION EXERCISE #4	EXERCISE EVALUATION	NEW THEORY LESSON CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE ROMANTIC COMEDY	Q&A
TREATMENT DRAFT EVALUTATION	NEW THEORY LESSON: COMPLICATIONS & ORCHESTRATION OF CHARACTER RELATIONSHIP	DRAMATIC TENSION #5	EXERCISE EVALUATION
THE BIG SICK - CHARACTER vs GENRE ANALYSIS	PRACTICAL WRITING #5 NOODLING YOUR DRAFT	PRACTICAL WRITING #6 ADVANCED OUTLINING	PRACTICAL WRITING #7 CREATING SCENE FLOW

One of our students personalized lesson schedule, made in collaboration with her.





**WHAT ARE YOU  
SIGNING UP FOR?**





The Mentor Program is a lot of fun and within a short period, you will see yourself grow from a hopeful amateur to a self-assured professional.

But this accelerated growth is not a walk in the park.

In many ways, it's harder than a 3-year college program. You will be asked to write two screenplays during the program. It's not an easy task for anyone.

However, if you are selected you for the program, it means that we are convinced you can become a professional writer if you only agree to our 5 simple rules;





## FOLLOW THE LESSONS

This may seem like a simple request but this is an advanced, accelerated program and some lessons are bound to test and develop your talents to their outermost limit.

Communication is the key. Let your Mentor know if there's anything that can be clarified better. Have a continuous dialogue with him about how to deliver the lessons in a way that is best for you. This is the benefit of having a personal Mentor.

## DO THE ASSIGNMENTS

Some lessons are designed to challenge your talent. That is how you grow. But if you should ever feel tripped up, you mustn't give up.

Fortunately, you have 24/7 access to your Mentor. Shoot us a mail and we will be right with you.

In any case, it is always better to solve the assignment as best as you can and hand them in than to give up - Even if you do not live up to your expectations.

Sometimes, the strongest growth comes from getting back up on the horse again.

## TAKE CRITICISM TO HEART.

Dealing with criticism the right way is the most important growth factor you will ever encounter as a screenwriter. The whole industry is built around this principle. The difference between those that only get one chance in the industry and those that get many comes down to how you deal with criticism.

Great writers love criticism because each time they learn something from it, that improves their writing, each time. We urge you to adopt this attitude but promise you that all criticism you receive will always be constructive and positive.





## IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL

Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans, as John Lennon famously said. We understand if you have to cancel a lesson because of unforeseen events in your life. But if you have to cancel, all we ask is that you let us know as soon as possible so we can re-schedule your session.

## START FROM SCRATCH.

All of our students have already been writing screenplays for a while. Therefore it is only natural that you might want your new mentor to work with you on a screenplay that you've already begun or having a hard time finishing.

**However, in our experience screenwriting is taught best by going through the whole process of writing a screenplay from Logline to the final draft.**

**So if you are in need for fixing your screenplay, this program might not be the right fit for you.**

In our experience with buying and selling screenplays, the problem with most of them is the story concept. Story concepts are sort of like the foundation of a house. If you build it on bad soil, the house will never stand. For this reasons. It is important that we start the process from the very beginning.

We will teach you how to generate ideas for stories that can actually sell - ideas that will work - ideas that are professionally viable. So if you want to get most out of this program we ask you to start from scratch.





**PERKS**



Sometimes our students feel they require emergency help when they are stuck with an assignment.

We are working with a system that allows them to contact their instructor, between sessions for brief help if they need it.

In addition to that, you will receive a steady flow of written lessons, on mail, as well as articles on screenwriting, tailor suited to your individual needs.

You will also receive plenty of "insider material" exclusive to this program such as original Hollywood Treatments, outlines and writers notes - Not published elsewhere.



One of the many free perks that are exclusive to students of the Program only. In this case, it's the more than 200-page instruction manual on how to write Horror Screenplays.





# FAQ



## CAN I QUIT THE PROGRAM ANYTIME I LIKE?

Sure. There is no obligation for you to stay. In the unlikely situation that you decide to discontinue the program, you can do so at any time.

## IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRY A FREE TRIAL LESSON?

Certainly. Shoot us a mail and make sure you write "trial lesson" in the headline and we will get back to you with suggestions for a date and time.

## DO YOU OFFER ANY SCHOLARSHIPS OR CREDITS?

Since we are a private production company and not a school, we currently do not offer any credit. Sadly, we don't offer any scholarships but we have in the past offered discounts to students that were facing hard times. So if this is the case, let us talk about it.



WHO  
ARE  
YOU?





# THE IDEAL APPLICANT

To make sure that you are ready to embark upon this very demanding program, we have set down some simple guidelines about who you are. However, we do not demand that you fit every one of them to a tee. Think about them, as we do ; loose guidelines.

First of all, you are out of college. You have some life experience and perhaps strong opinions about a great many things; politics, art, life.

You are passionate about writing. You are not interested in directing or acting. Writing is the only thing you want to do and you have already written at least two screenplays.

You are also a reader; you have read, at least some of the classics and think you know how to tell good writing from bad.

Lastly, you are ambitious, determined and ready to do whatever it takes to become a professional screenwriter.





HOW  
DO I  
SIGN  
UP ?





We are, unfortunately, unable to accept all applicants.

The popularity of the program has put us under pressure to select, but a very few, whom we have confidence will be able to benefit from the program.

Not everyone is ready for this highly accelerated learning experience and not everyone possesses the necessary skills, nor talent to benefit from it, at this point in their career.

Also, our commitment to make a real difference in our students' careers is something we take very seriously. We want to make sure that each one of our students will be introduced and exposed to the actual industry. This requires our full attention. For that reason, we have to focus our energy on a few students.

For all of those reasons, we are only selecting a maximum of 6 students, each year.



# THE SELECTION PROCESS

To make the process as simple and pain-free as possible, we ask our prospective screenwriting students to answer a questionnaire with 21 questions. The questions are divided into four categories. Some of them are easy questions, some are small writing assignments, while others are questions that are designed to highlight your life experience and perspective. There are no right or wrong answers to any of them, only your answers. You may request the test by emailing us at this Address:

[dan@scriptcounseling.com](mailto:dan@scriptcounseling.com)

Be sure to put "Questionnaire" in your headline.  
The questionnaire looks like this;







# COST



# THE FEE

Receiving personalized screenwriting tutoring by industry professionals, getting introduced to the industry, and receiving a constant flow of perks such as personalized articles, sounds expensive. And yet it's not. Part of the reason is that we have ulterior motives: As a production company, we are always on the lookout for screenwriters to write our projects.

Our tuition fee is a mere \$300,- per month for a whole year. The total is thus; \$3600,- for the entire program.

You can pay it per month or all at once. If you can pay the whole tuition, you will receive a discount of \$400,-, ringing your total down to \$3200,-



# WHO IS YOUR MAIN MENTOR?

The Mentor Program was founded by and is taught and run by Dan Hoffmann.

However, Dan is not the only Mentor to teach on the program.

Dan studied dramatic writing at the renowned Tisch film school at NYU. He has written 2 produced feature films but apart from being a screenwriter, he spends most of his time as a screenplay analyst for major studios such

as Warner Bros, Focus Features, New Line Cinema, and many others. He has also Script doctored Tv shows like "The Bridge", "The killing" among others, Besides that, Dan also taught graduate screenwriting at the Southern University of Denmark and he is a popular guest lecturer on screenwriting around the world.

Dan resides in New York City with his wife, Dineen.



Dan on his way to a script meeting at Paramount Studios.



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# FADE IN

Screenplays always end with a "fade out". But If you are selected for this program, you will see it as a Fade in; A new beginning. A beginning where your talent as a screenwriter will finally find its professional form.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Hoffmann", with a stylized, cursive script.

Dan Hoffmann

( Produced screenwriter and Screenplay Analyst  
for the film & Tv Industry)

