

**Virginia Film Office**

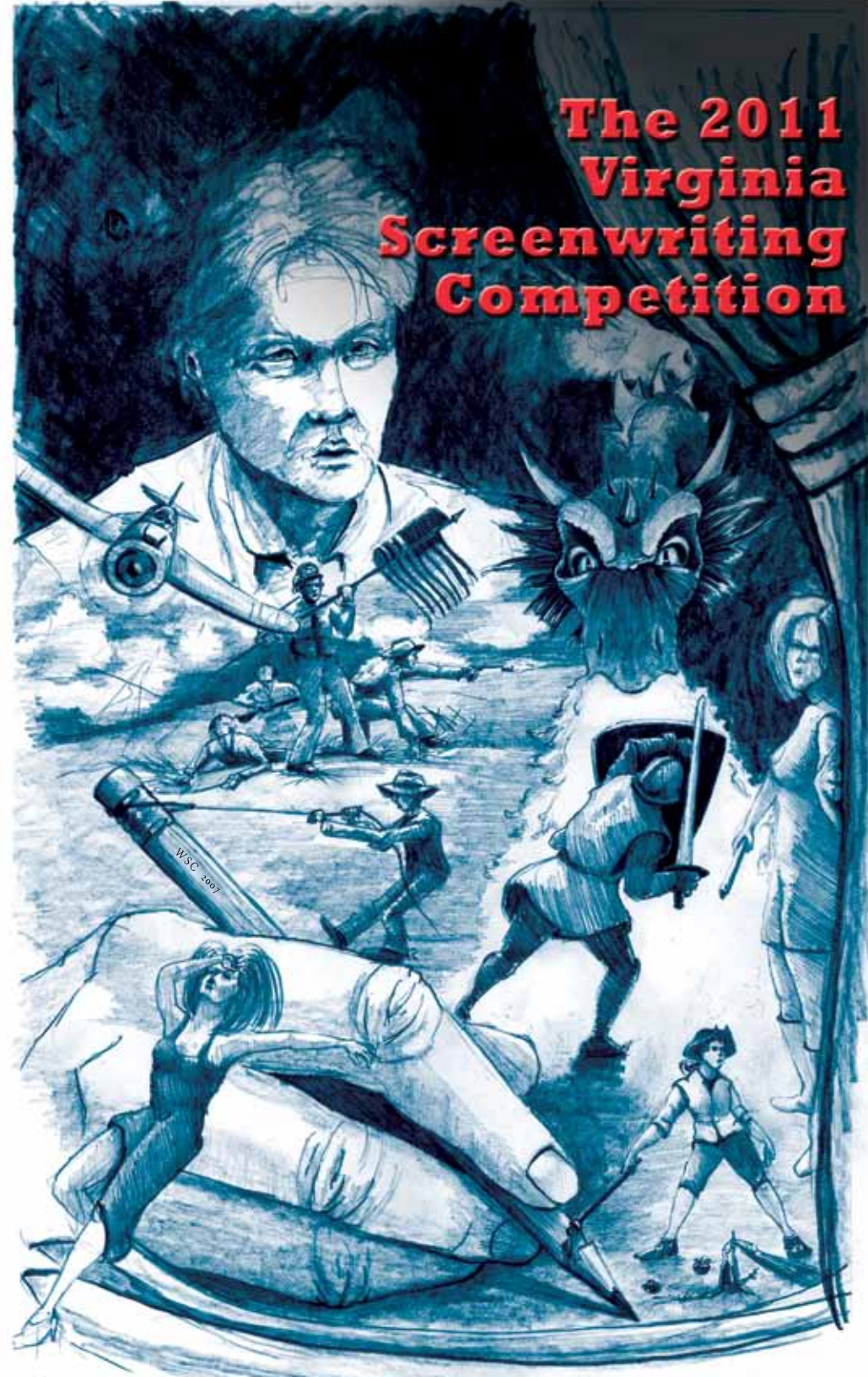
901 East Byrd Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219-4048

Attention: Screenwriting Competition

Michele Poulos, Ryan Farr, David Williamson, Jesse Bausch, Travis Gordon, Charles Griffin, Nathan King, Virginia Proutt, J. Allan Moye, CB Wilson, Virginia Proutt, Jim Dawson, Alan Will CB Wilson, Steven Zawacki, J. Allan Moye, Heather Cochrane, Bruce Sanborn, Alan Williamson, CB Wilson, George Wills, C Ivor Noel Hume, Gene Harris, Robert Davenport, Megan Holle Rex Bowman, Rebecca Rogers, Mary Anderson, Lisa Beck, M Lawrence, TK Elmore, Jacqualine G. Couch, M. Charles McBee Judith Bell, Christopher Conway, Robert E. Williams, Gina Bono Charles L. Hayes, James A. Newton Jr., Sakou Hamilton, Margaret Lawrence, Michael R. Martin, Kiran Verma, Randall A. Shreve, Barry Gottlieb, William E. Turnage, Elizabeth Morgan, Timothy Kolly, Shirley M. Wilson, Edward Falco, Edward Lando, Mark Trachtman, Doug Hornig, Frank Levering, Deborah Pryor, Vince Gilligan, Moye, Wanda Warner, Meghan Gehman, James Pendleton, Eric Trethewey, Jim Dawson, Alan Williamson, Michele Poulos, Ryan Farr, David Williamson, Jesse Bausch, Travis Gordon, Charles Griffin, Nathan King, Virginia Proutt, J. Allan Moye Steven Zawac, J. Allan Moye, Heather Cochrane, Bruce Sanborn CB Wilson, George Wills, CB Wilson, Wayde Byard, Ivor Noel Gene Harris, Robert Davenport, Megan Holley, Laura Scott, Rebecca Rogers, Mary Anderson, Lisa Beck, Maggie Lawrence TK Elmore, Jacqualine G. Couch, M. Charles McBee, Judith Bell Christopher Conway, Robert E. Williams, Gina Bono, Charles James A. Newton Jr., Sakou Hamilton, Margaret Lawrence, Mich Kiran Verma, Randall A. Shreve, Barry Gottlieb, William E. Tur Elizabeth Morgan, Timothy S. Kolly, Shirley M. Wilson, Edward Edward Lando, Mark Trachtman, Doug Hornig, Frank Levering, Deborah Pryor, Vince Gilligan, Allan Moye, Wanda Warner, M James Pendleton, Eric Trethewey, J. Allan Moye, CB Wilson W CB Wilson, Steven Zawacki, J. Allan Moye, Heather Cochrane, Bruce Sanborn, Alan Williamson, Michele Poulos, Ryan Farr, David Williamson, Jesse Bausch, Travis Gordon, Charles Griffin, Nathan King, Virginia Proutt, J. Allan Moye, CB Wilson, Virginia W CB Wilson, Wayde Byard, Ivor Noel Hume, Gene Harris, Robe Megan Holley, Laura Scott, Rex Bowman, Rebecca Rogers, M Lisa Beck, Maggie Lawrence, TK Elmore, Jacqualine G. Couch, M. C Bee, Judith Bell, Christopher Conway, Robert E. Gina Charles L. Hayes, James A. Newton Jr., Sakou Hami Marg Lawrence, Michael R. Martin, Kiran Verma, Randall B Barry Gottlieb, William E. Turnage, Elizabeth Morgan, Timothe Shirley M. Wilson, Edward Falco, Edward Lando, Mark Tracht Doug Hornig, Frank Levring, Deborah Pryor, Vince Gilligan, Allan Moye, Wanda Warner, Meghan Gehman, James Pendle

**APPLICATION DEADLINE** Postmarked no later than **May 20, 2011**



# The **2011** Virginia Screenwriting Competition **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Postmarked no later than **May 20, 2011**

The Virginia Screenwriting Competition was established in 1988 as a means of showcasing the work of Virginia writers and encouraging the development of scripts that could be shot in Virginia. Since that time, the competition has received more than 1,000 entries from all parts of the state.

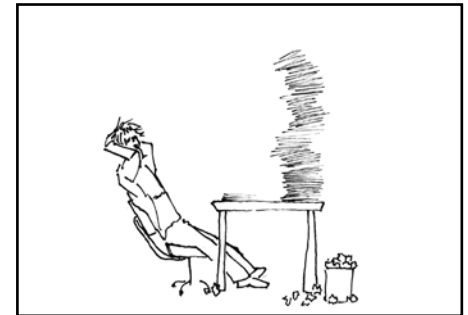
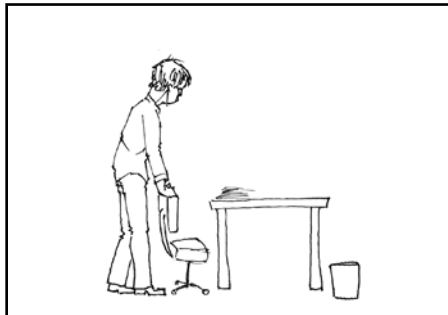
The first round of judging is by judges from within the state who each select one or two scripts to be finalists in the competition. These scripts are then sent to working professionals in the industry who read all of the final screenplays and select the three winners. An award of \$1000 is given to each of the winners without rank as part of the Virginia Film Festival, held in Charlottesville in November.

The 2011 Virginia Screenwriting Competition is unique in that all entries receive a written evaluation from the first round judges, often giving writers valuable insights into ways to improve their work. In addition, the competition is one of the few in the nation requiring no entrance fee.

## Rules

### APPLICANTS

- Applicants must be legal residents of the state, have a valid Virginia address and must have lived in the state for at least six months during the past year. Exceptions are those who are legal residents but who are required by their work to reside overseas (such as members of the military) or students attending Virginia schools.
- No applicant may have earned money in excess of \$5000 as the writer of either a theatrical film or television program or as a result of the sale of (or the sale of an option to) any original story, treatment or teleplay.
- Scripts may be co-authored, if each author is a Virginia resident. One author must be selected as the primary applicant, who will be the one that receives mailings and other information about the competition.



### SCREENPLAYS

Since one of the goals of the competition is to find new work that could be shot in the state, the majority of the script must take place in Virginia or at locations that could reasonably be found in Virginia. For example, a script that uses a farm and a river as primary locations would probably be acceptable, whereas a script that takes place in a desert or arctic location would not. Any judge can disqualify a script that does not meet the location criteria and the decision of the judge will be final.

- Screenplays currently in production, or optioned for production, are ineligible.
- Only one script may be submitted by each author.
- Previously entered, non-winning scripts may be re-submitted. It is the policy of the Virginia Screenwriting Competition that re-submitted screenplays not be submitted to the same judge in subsequent years. Therefore, writers are asked to indicate whether they have submitted the script in the past.
- Substitutions of either corrected pages or new drafts of the entry will not be allowed.
- Adaptations are acceptable if accompanied by documentation affirming that a legal option to the property has been obtained by the writer.

### THE SCRIPT

- Screenplays must be submitted as follows:
  - The script must be typed and submitted in a screenplay format that is standard to the United States motion picture industry. There are numerous books, computer software or websites that provide examples of this kind of formatting.
  - The script must be approximately 100 – 130 pages in length.
  - Pages must be numbered.
  - The name, address or any personal information about the author must not appear anywhere in the script.
  - The script must be bound with metal fasteners (brads) and cannot be permanently bound.

• It is recommended that sturdy, card-weight covers be included to protect the script. Do not send hard-covered "ring" binders.

• Electronically transmitted or faxed screenplays will not be accepted.

• Supplemental materials may not be included with the script including resumes, reviews or letters of recommendation.

### HOW TO APPLY

• To submit a screenplay, please include the following:

• One copy of the script

• A completed application

• A brief synopsis of the script, not to exceed five sentences in length. If the screenplay reaches the final round of judging, this synopsis may be used in publicity materials, so please write it carefully. Include your name and the name of the screenplay with the synopsis.

### Applications should be mailed or delivered to:

Virginia Film Office  
901 East Byrd Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219-4048  
Attention: Screenwriting Competition

The Film Office is located on the 19th Floor, West Tower of Riverfront Plaza in Richmond.

Submissions will be accepted from March 1st - May 20th. All submissions must be hand delivered or post-marked by May 20. No extensions will be granted for any reason. Notification of the results will be made on or around October 2011.

### APPLICATION

Title of the Script \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (evening and day) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Co-author name \_\_\_\_\_

Co-author phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Length of residency in Virginia \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously submitted this screenplay? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Year(s) submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Title, if different \_\_\_\_\_

Assurance: I certify that I am a legal resident of Virginia, that the script I have submitted is my original work and that I have legally obtained the rights to the use of any non-original source material that may be herein contained.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Film Office sometimes receives inquiries regarding finalists and winners of the competition. If you give permission for the Film Office to release information about your screenplay, including your name, email address or phone number to parties who have expressed an interest in your work, please sign below:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Finalist \_\_\_\_\_

Winner \_\_\_\_\_



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### **Notes to writers:**

Why is it important that you put your screenplay in an accepted screenplay format? Because it will give your script the best possible chance of being received favorably by the judges who are accustomed to reading and evaluating professional level work. Samples of accepted formats are available on the internet and in books about screenwriting. If you are unsure about an acceptable format, you may want to check some of the resources listed below.

It is also important that you check your screenplay carefully for typographical or other kinds of errors, as well as missing pages. In the view of some judges, sloppy work can make the difference between a winning and a non-winning screenplay.

### **Resources for writers.**

Websites: There are many websites dedicated to screenwriters. The Writers Guild of America ([www.wga.org](http://www.wga.org)) has much useful information and links to other sites. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences sponsors the Nichols Fellowship in Screenwriting, one of the largest and most successful competitions in the country. The Nichols Fellowship website, [www.oscars.org/nicholl](http://www.oscars.org/nicholl), has some of the most useful and practical information available to new screenwriters.

### **Suggested Reading:**

There are a vast number of books available on screenwriting, and most offer valuable information. These are a few of the classic texts recommended to writers by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. A more complete list may be found at [www.oscars.org/nicholl](http://www.oscars.org/nicholl).

- Egri, Lajos. *The Art of Dramatic Writing*. (Simon & Schuster/Touchstone. 1960; first edition, 1946)
- Field, Syd. *Screenplay* (Dell, 1982)
- Hauge, Michael. *Writing Screenplays that Sell* (Harper Collins, 1991)
- Seger, Linda. *Making a Good Script Great*. 3rd Edition. (Samuel French, 1994)
- Trottier, David. *The Screenwriter's Bible* (3rd edition, Silman-Jaes, 1998)
- Walter, Richard. *Screenwriting: The Art, Craft and Business of Film and Television Writing* (Plume, 1988)

There are also numerous software programs that may prove helpful. If you are having trouble finding them, you might want to check with The Writer's Store, 11317 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90025. Phone: 310.479.7774.

Website: [www.writerscomputer.com](http://www.writerscomputer.com).