



# VIRTUAL TABLE READ EVENT

2021

**Friday, August 13th, 2021**  
**6:00pm PT ZOOM**

**6:00pm:** Announcements and Introductions

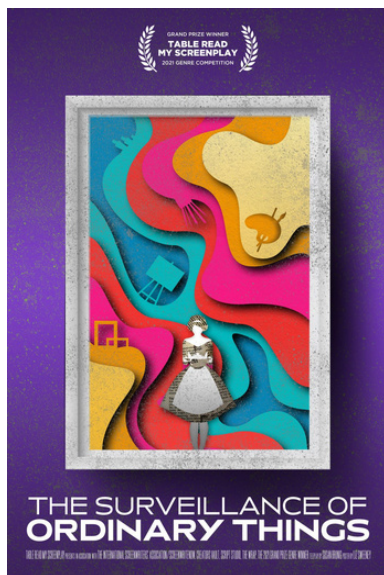
**6:15pm:** Reading of Scenes from *The Surveillance of Ordinary Things*

**7:00pm:** Q&A with Writer, Susan Brunig, Director, Mary Lou Belli, ISA's VP of Development, Felicity Wren, and Producer, Carolina Groppa

**Table Read My Screenplay Genre  
Competition - 2021**

Presented by





## Table Read My Screenplay Competition Winner

### *The Surveillance of Ordinary Things*

A middle-aged, suburban housewife decides to run away and end it all until she stumbles upon an unplugged community of creative misfits and rediscovers the artist she once was.



### Writer: Susan Brunig

Susan Brunig fell in love with Cinema while studying experimental film at Binghamton University but she fell in love with storytelling while working in Post Production at Pixar. Her screenplays have won multiple awards, most recently, the Table Read My Screenplay Genre competition with her indie drama *The Surveillance of Ordinary Things*. She's an unflinching examiner of human behavior through the lens of story and is committed to the power and necessity of diverse stories and characters. Susan is a Cinestory Fellowship Winner, NYWIFT Writers Lab alum and Final Draft Big Break Drama Category Winner, focusing primarily on female-driven indie dramas.

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## Director: Mary Lou Belli

Two time Emmy award-winning MARY LOU BELLI has been directing television for over 30 years including *NCIS New Orleans*, *Black Lightning*, *Bull*, *Legacies*, *Station 19*, *Sweet Magnolias*, *Pitch*, *Monk*, *Famous In Love*, *Devious Maids*, *The Quad*, *American Woman*, and *Hart of Dixie* as well as Disney's *The Secret of Sulphur Springs*, *Ms. Pat*, *Wizards of Waverly Place*, *Sister, Sister*, *Girlfriends*, and *The Game*. Her short film, *Straight Eye for the Gay Guy* won "Best Mini-short" at the California Independent Film Fest where she also premiered *I Heard Something*, a thriller that went on to play fests internationally. She has done ground-breaking work on web-series. Her award-winning short, *America*, played its 14th fest on its 4 continent at The Hague and won best short.

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Mary Lou served two terms as the Co-chair of the Women's Steering Committee at the DGA where she also has served on the Western Director's Council, presently she is on Leadership Council PAC and as an alternate to the National Board. She is an Honorary Board member of the Alliance of Women Directors and Advisory Board member of Women in Media and a long time member of Women In Film as well as the Peer Group Executive Committee of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

She has served as judge and/or guest speaker for the CSU Media Arts Fest, a judge for the Miss America Outstanding Teen Pageant, a jury member at the Sapporo Short Festival, Newport Beach Film Fest, Regina International Film Festival, and The Voice awards, a lecturer at the Chautauqua Institute, and a panelist for Women In Film, the DGA, SAG, and AFTRA and the LA Times Festival of Books. She has been a guest artist at the International Thespian Festival for secondary school theatre where she gave workshops to thousands of teens and high school theatre teachers. Through her teaching, she supports many of the vibrant diversity programs including ABC/Disney, CBS, Sony, HBO Access, AFI's Directing Workshop for Women, and Warner Bros. Directing Workshop mentoring the next generation of directors.

She is the co-author of four books: "The NEW Sitcom Career Book," "Acting for Young Actors," and "Directors Tell the Story" which she co-wrote with fellow DGA member Bethany Rooney. Her 4th book, "Acting for the Screen" was published by Focal Press summer 2019.





### Producer and Actor: Molly Kasch - Kira's Mother

As the Chief Operating Officer for the ISA, Molly is thrilled to be an integral part of this company that is inspiring and encouraging emerging screenwriters and helping launch careers. A Babson College grad in Marketing/Communications and Entrepreneurial Studies, her business background spans restaurants, beauty products, consumer games, and the entertainment industry. She is also an award-winning producer and actor whose body of work includes documentary films, shorts, and a TV pilot and roles on *House*, *General Hospital*, and *All My Children*.

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### Production Manager and Moderator: Shayna Weber

Shayna Weber is a screenwriter, producer and director originally from Bend, Oregon. Shayna started out working in casting and talent management before settling into a career as a producer, during the rise of unscripted television, where she developed, produced and directed a number of projects. Her roster of shows includes: *So You Think You Can Dance*, *RuPaul's Drag Race*, *Weakest Link*, VH1's *Band's Reunited*, *Brew Dogs*, *She's Got The Look*, Disney's *Code 9*, and the Miss Universe Pageants. She has worked for NBC, Fox, Disney, MTV, VH1, Travel Channel, Discovery and Bravo. Shayna also produced the award-winning, horror/comedy, *Lunch Ladies*, and directed, *A Very Important Film*, both of which have received distribution. Shayna works with ISA as the Manager of Production & Research and hosts some of their ISA Presents Webinars and events.

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### Stage Manager and Editor: Scott Markus

Scott Markus has been working in various aspects of film and television production since 1997. His work has taken him across America while working on set for *Lost*, *The Dark Knight*, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, *Stranger Than Fiction* and many more, filling roles ranging from production assistant to assistant director and director of photography. Markus currently has interest in developing original content for the web & TV while continuing to enjoy work as an editor, camera op and drone camera op. He's very proud of his work for the International Screenwriters' Association, where he works to try to connect writers to film festivals, teachers & consultants. He also covers festivals like Austin, SXSW, Sundance & Tribeca as a journalist.

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**ASL Interpreters: Nicole Dunn and Erin Burns**

# Cast

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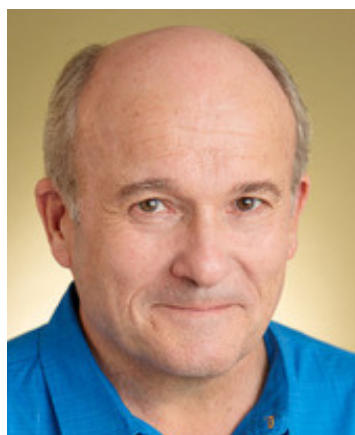


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## Adriana Leonard – Callie

A Lebanese American actor, writer and producer from South Carolina, Adriana graduated from USC and continued her studies at Regents College in London & Los Angeles. As an actor, Adriana has appeared in numerous film and television productions, including FreeForm's *A Cinderella Story* to major studio features including *Mr. Church*, *Cross 2*, and *SPIVAK*. In 2017 she starred as Denise Miranda on NBC's *Chicago PD* and appeared in FOX's *Empire*. Adriana has produced & starred in her own projects, including the 2014 feature *Camouflage*, a moral story raising awareness for mental illness and bullying, a short film entitled *Signing Out*, which was accepted and nominated in seven festivals worldwide, now streaming on Tello Films, and her 9 episode series entitled *BETA*, a heartfelt comedy about women in the tech industry that will premiere at Geena Davis' Bentonville Film Festival this year. As a producer she has worked on multiple films and television projects for HBO and Hulu and continues to strive to tell stories that provoke progressive change & inspire higher level consciousness.

[www.adrianaleonard.com](http://www.adrianaleonard.com)



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## Andre Mathieu – Narrator / Salesman / Police Sergeant

Andre Mathieu began his acting career at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles and has since appeared in several plays, feature films, television shows, short films, student films, and web series. His favorite stage roles include Yvan in *ART*, Charlie Martin in *On Golden Pond*, and Brassett in *Charley's Aunt*. He made his big screen debut in *Bottle Shock* and his television debut playing a reporter in *What If...E.T.* on the Discovery Channel. His student films include the senior film *Gwai Lo* by John M. Chu. He has also appeared in several short films, most recently *The Proposal*.

# Cast

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## Bob McCracken – Volkano “Volk” Morrison

Bob was born in Philadelphia but his Father’s lifetime military service kept him on the move. He attended elementary school in Philadelphia, Bay Ridge Brooklyn and Largo Florida and graduated from Antilles High School in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He worked his way through college at West Chester University in Pennsylvania receiving a BA with a major in Theater. He immediately began working in Philadelphia area theaters The Pocket Playhouse, Hedgerow Theatre Company, The People’s Light and Theatre Company as well as forming his own theatre company The South Street Theatre Company. He also toured in productions for Rick Trow Productions and becoming a director there. A production of *Sexual Perversity* in Chicago moved him to New York in the summer of 1981. In the fall of 81 he moved to Los Angeles to begin what would be so far an almost 40 year career acting in and directing television and film. His IMDB page lists 60 titles the most recent being guest starring roles in *NCIS New Orleans*, *Hawaii 50*, *Bosch*, *The Exorcist*, *Here and Now* and 5 seasons recurring as Brendan Roarke an Irish King in *Sons of Anarchy*. His Television Directing credits include several episodes of both *Any Day Now* for Lifetime television and *Judging Amy* for CBS. Bob has also coached privately several film and television stars. Bob can currently be seen as Pastor Barnes in the film *The Last Champion* now on Amazon.



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## Christopher Ammanuel – Terrance

Christopher A'mmanuel Darby was born on April 21, and relocated to Charlotte, NC. After years of singing as his first love, Christopher always had a passion for the arts and ended up falling in love with musical theatre. At the age of 19, he landed his biggest role thus far in the hit CW show, *Black Lightning*, starring Cress Williams, Nafessa Williams, and China Anne McClain among other notable actors, where he plays TC. Since then, Christopher has added more projects to his portfolio, including the DC Universe series *Doom Patrol* and Netflix Feature Film *Holidate*. Embarking upon his biggest project thus far, he was tapped to star alongside Tyrese Gibson, Ray Liotta, and Scott Eastwood, in a major feature film!

# Cast

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## Eddie Blackwell – Bill, Kira’s Dad

Eddie Blackwell is an African American actor from Philadelphia, PA. Upon moving to LA, Eddie worked primarily in television post production, working for daytime talk shows and HGTV programming. After realizing that wasn’t fulfilling, he started to pursue acting full time. In his short time as an actor, he can be spotted in a handful of commercials including The General, Best Buy, Hummer, eBay, Toyota, Honda & Capital One. He has recently co-starred in *Lucifer*, two shorts films: *Elsewhere* and *ImagiGary*, as well as three miniseries: *Just Living*, *A.M.F.A.A.* and *Baker’s Dozen*, which are currently streaming on Amazon Prime. Eddie studied film and television production at Point Park University and studies at Margie Haber Studio in Hollywood.



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## Elijah Haney – Alexander

Elijah Haney is 11 years old. He loves playing video games, acting, and having fun with his friends. He loves to sing, dance, and his favorite sports are football, basketball, and Karate. While his acting career is just getting started, it has been amazing with the different opportunities that he has had. He is truly appreciative.



# Cast



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## Gilli Messer – Sam, Reporter

Gilli Messer is a Los Angeles-based actress and writer. Her Israeli-American upbringing, affinity for languages, and compulsion for storytelling and consuming led her to study Anthropology at Barnard College, where she graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa (Latin and Greek for “nerdy”). Some of Gilli's network television credits include roles on *Jessie*, *2 Broke Girls*, *American Housewife*, *About A Boy*, and *Ryan Hansen Solves Crimes on Television*, and you may recognize her (or her voice!) from many national commercials, theatre productions, music videos, and voiceover projects. As a writer, Gilli's most recent credits include developing and scripting a musical comedy series for AwesomenessTV, writing freelance episodes of Wondery's podcast *Imagined Life*, narrated by Virginia Madsen, and NBC Peacock Kids' *Spine Chilling Stories*, and the CBS Sketch Comedy Diversity Showcase. Gilli wrote and starred in the comedic digital series, *The Drunk Lonely Wives Book Club*, directed by Emmy-winner Mary Lou Belli, *MEME QUEENS*, distributed by WhoHaha, and the award-winning short film, *Dog Park*. Like/subscribe/indulge her/learn more at [www.gillimesser.com](http://www.gillimesser.com).



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## Jeanette O'Connor – Gram

Jeanette says she's FBI ~ Full Blooded Italian ~ Born in Syracuse NY, Jeanette has worked extensively in TV, Film and Theatre in Los Angeles. Some of her favorite roles on TV, recurring on *Baskets*, *Ray Donovan*, also loved doing Guest Roles on *Doom Patrol*, *Preacher*, *Goliath*, and most recent, *Made for Love* on HBO Max to name a few.

She is thrilled to be back to the Theatre with *The Surveillance of Ordinary Things* and working with Director, Mary Lou Belli.



# Cast

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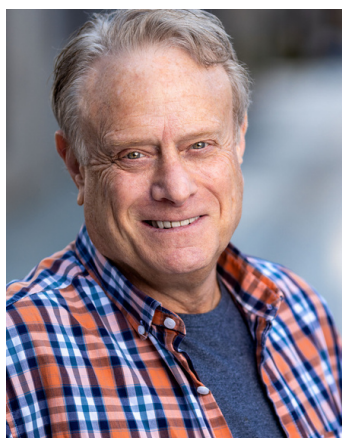


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## Kailer Scopacasa – Johnny

Born and raised in the land of sun and surf...the tropical island of Kauai, Hawaii, a young boy named Kailer Scopacasa would find his passion in acting. With the boy's trusty talisman, a home video camcorder, he would create the worst home movies ever made. But...alas, his skills grew, and on-the-spot home videos featuring his cat as the main character became cinematic films with a fully written script attached!

At 17, Kailer wrote and starred in a feature film titled *Monsters & Men*. He did some plays too! Gaining invaluable stage experience. A short film titled *Apart* in which Kailer played the lead, is an Official Selection of the 2015 Hawaii International Film Festival and also played the lead in a Music Video Officially Selected for Raindance Film Festival 2019. Kailer trained at the Stella Adler Art of Acting Studio in LA.



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## Kevin Brief – Edward

Kevin Brief is an award-winning actor who has worked consistently in television, film, commercials, voice-over and on stage for over 35 years. He is currently based in Los Angeles, where he has worked primarily in television. Some of Kevin's recurring TV roles include *Big Bang Theory*, *Criminal Minds*, *Pretty Little Liars* and *Hart of Dixie*. Kevin has well over 100 other credits ranging from *Baywatch* to *Bones*...*Fresh Prince* to *Friends*...*Golden Girls* to *Grey's Anatomy*...*Wings* to *Will & Grace*...well, you get the idea. He is a member of the Television Academy and has been short-listed for Emmy Nominations for many of his roles. Of his stage work, the LA Times called him... 'one of our best character actors working in LA today'. He has won the esteemed LA Weekly Best Actor Award. Kevin has also had a robust career in commercials and in voice-over, including several recognizable campaigns. Kevin teaches acting and improvisation at LA area colleges. He is an acting and audition coach and has taught workshops all around the country. He holds a BA in Theater from CSULB, and MFA in Acting from the prestigious Asolo/FSU Conservatory. He is married to his favorite landscape architect.

# Cast

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## Mecca Morgan White – Twyla

**Mecca Morgan White**, actress, musician, and director, was born in Los Angeles California, October 7, 1995. Mecca grew up with a foundation deeply rooted in the arts. Performing in children's theater by age five, later collaborating with her mother actress/musician Persia White, and stepfather actor/director Joseph Morgan in her teen years. Mecca's passion for female driven comedy and drama in television and film, sparked the creation of her comedic short film **Juice Truck** which she wrote, directed, and starred in. Juice Truck was the official selection for nine film festivals, and won "Best Female Filmmaker" in the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival, along with "Best Editing" in the Westfield international Film Festival. Mecca has starred in Carousel, co-starring Joseph Morgan, the CW hit TV comedy Girlfriends, and most recently the comedy TV pilot DANCE ON. She is a graduate of The Los Angeles Film School, with a degree in Film/Cinema/Video Studies, she also attended The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.



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## Rose Tablizo – Lina

Rose Tablizo hails from San Antonio, Texas and is a recent graduate of NYU Tisch, where they studied acting, writing, and producing. Roles throughout their collegiate career include Macduff in Macbeth (The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art), Phedipedes in Aristophanes' The Clouds (New Studio On Broadway), and Judith in Elegies for Angels Punks and Raging Queens (Playwrights Horizons). Special thanks to Mom, Dad, and their chosen family.

# Cast

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## Suanne Spoke – Barbara

A multi-award-winning actor/producer, Suanne has made over 150 appearances on stage/film/television, most recently on “Station 19” and starring in “Second chances with Jason Nash” for YouTubeTV. She can be seen in “Whiplash”, “Wild Prairie Rose”, “Gastropod” and many others. On stage, Suanne has twice won the Ovation Award, the Garland Award/LA Weekly award for Best Performance in numerous productions and has also been awarded the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award/Garland Award for Best Production/Producer. During her lengthy stage career, she served on the Board of Directors for both Company of Angels and Deaf West Theatre.

Suanne currently serves on the faculty at the California Institute of the Arts, where she teaches acting in the Film Directing Program and in Character Animation. Suanne has also taught at Deaf West’s Summer School and does specialized audition technique seminars. She has served as an acting consultant for the UCLA Extension for screenwriters and UCLA/US Performing Camps.

## Q&A Panelists Include

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**Susan Brunig - Writer**

Bio listed above

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**Mary Lou Belli – Director**

Bio listed above

[View IMDb](#)



## Q&A Panelists Include

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### Felicity Wren – VP of Development, ISA

Felicity Wren is the VP of Development at the ISA. Originally from London, she studied all areas of performance: writing, directing, acting technique, and script analysis for her Honors Degree, then finished her education with a Masters in Drama from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. She formed her own Production Company: Unrestricted View in 1999, concentrating on theatre, new writing and comedy at their performance venue - The Hen & Chickens Theatre in London. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2011, she has continued acting, writing and producing, winning five performance awards, and producing 13 film projects to date. She now devotes a lot of her time to the ISA Development Slate writers, and Contest Winners, getting their projects in front of eminent producers, managers and agents in Hollywood. She is the co-host for the ISA's FB Live Broadcast, Wine Wednesdays.

Felicity's focus with the ISA is to support the Development Slate Writers and the Contest Winners, providing guidance, notes and access to Industry Professionals. In this instance she helped build the ISA Development Slate, submitting writers' projects on their behalf and helping them launch their careers –many writers have received options and representation because of Felicity's continued support, encouragement and assistance.

## Q&A Panelists Include



### Carolina Groppa – Producer, Writer

Carolina is a Brazilian born Emmy nominated producer living in Los Angeles. She produced the award-winning and 2017 Emmy nominated documentary *Autism in Love*, which explores how adults with autism find and navigate romantic relationships. It world premiered to rave reviews at the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival and aired on PBS' Independent Lens series. The film picked up many awards, including Best Documentary at Mammoth Lakes Film Festival and the Audience Award at Warsaw International Film Festival. In February of 2016, *Autism in Love* was the recipient of the fifth annual Peek Award for Disability in Film by the Utah Film Center. The award pays tribute to artists who are positively impacting our society's perception of people with disabilities.

Carolina served as a co-producer on *Miss Virginia*, starring Uzo Aduba and provided production supervising support on the Netflix original films *Girlfriend's Day* and *Happy Anniversary*. She had the pleasure of co-producing *The Female Brain*, Whitney Cummings' directing debut feature film. She produced *Curated*, a short for Refinery 29's Shatterbox Anthology Series, directed by Gillian Jacobs which premiered at TIFF in 2018. She served as a physical producer on, *Sylvie's Love*, official selection of the 2020 Sundance Film Festival in U.S Dramatic Competition. *Hysterical*, a documentary about women in stand up comedy for FX with director Andrea Nevins at the helm, premiered at SXSW 2021 and is streaming on Hulu.

She is currently on post on *Honk for Jesus, Save Your Soul*, a mockumentary style film written and directed by Adamma Ebo and starring Regina Hall and Sterling K. Brown. Produced alongside Daniel Kaluuya's production company 59%, the film takes a satirical look at Mega Church culture and the often nebulous perspectives that are cultivated from being both entrenched in it, as well as finding yourself on the outside looking in.

Carolina has three feature films in active development and has also produced numerous commercials for Sawhorse Productions, Colossal Youth, ContagiousLA, We Fly Coach, and Trailer Park.

## Special Thanks

Special Thanks to the entire ISA team – it takes a village to produce these events that help shine a light on fantastically talented writers like Susan Brunig.

Caitlin Arcand, Craig James, Diane Burrell, Danielle Green, Felicity Wren, Jerren Lauder, Scott Markus, Jeffrey Morales, Jordan Trippeer, Max Timm, Reggie Singh, Scott Markus and Shayna Weber.  
And a huge thanks to Liz Sweeney for the beautiful poster design.

## Sponsors



### International Screenwriters' Association

Our mission is simple: help writers tell their stories brilliantly. The ISA was founded by independent filmmakers who understand that there are many different roads to success. We believe that everyone, from all walks of life, have stories to tell, each with a unique perspective and style. Our goal is to help you grow as a storyteller by honing your individual talent, sharpening your distinct voice, then guiding you to break through. From working writers, hobbyists and enthusiasts alike, we want to inspire you to believe in yourself and encourage you to become the most authentic storyteller you can be.

Our focus starts with expert advice, mentors, classes, contests, feedback and more to help you develop and build up your profile. Then we give you the tools to showcase your accomplishments and get the attention of producers, directors, agents and other industry pros looking to option work. There are no limits to what you can accomplish with the ISA. Keep writing, growing and using every tool we have to offer. You'll find your unique path to success, and we'll help you get there. Join the community at [NetworkISA.org](http://NetworkISA.org) and on social: @NetworkISA



### The Wrap News Inc.

Founded by award-winning journalist Sharon Waxman in 2009, is the leading digital news organization covering the business of entertainment and media. As a multi-platform media company, The Wrap News Inc. is comprised of TheWrap.com, the award-winning, industry-leading outlet for high-profile newsbreaks, investigative stories and authoritative analysis; PowerGrid Pro, the most current, relevant film development database; ThePowerGrid, an algorithmic, data-driven ranking system for every person, project and company in the film business; and TheGrill, an executive leadership conference centered on the convergence of entertainment, media and technology. The Wrap News, Inc. is backed by Maveron, a venture capital firm based in Seattle, Washington and co-founded by Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Dan Levitan. TheWrap was nominated as the Best Entertainment website in 2012 and named the best online news site in both 2012 and 2009 at the National Entertainment Journalism Awards by the Los Angeles Press Club. It has won many other awards for investigative reporting, columns, criticism and feature writing. TheWrap was named one of the "100 Most Important Online Publishers" in 2010 by OMMA, the magazine of online media, marketing and advertising.

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Script Studio is a cross-platform, award-winning creative writing application that was created to take the complexity out of the screenwriting process. Its intuitive design is based on the principle of step-outlining which allows you to plan your cinematic structure, develop characters and format your screenplay to the industry-standard guidelines scene by scene, providing all the tools a writer needs in a single cross-platform package. Since Movie Outline's release in 2004, it has gained popularity among writers for its user-friendly interface, practical approach to structure and intuitive design. It is now the foremost creative outlining tool and screenplay development package on the market, targeted at film-makers but highly adaptable for all writing disciplines.



### ScreenwriteNOW!

ScreenwriteNOW! is a consulting company that helps screenwriters quickly clear writer's block, get pitch ready and transform their own hero's journey into writing gold. We share a technique that clears blocks & fears at the underlying cause, stress. Based in neuroscience, Neuro-Energy Tapping calms the nervous system and relaxes stressed pathways in the brain, helping you connect with your creative flow.  
[www.screenwritenow.com](http://www.screenwritenow.com)



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