

UCLA Extension Writers' Program

Master Class in Feature Film Writing: *At UCLA*

[October 2011 - May 2012]

Master Class in Half-Hour Comedy Pilot Writing: *At UCLA*

[October 2011 - March 2012]

Master Class in Novel Writing: *Online/Low-Residency*

[September 2011 - June 2012]

MASTER CLASSES IN FEATURE FILM WRITING, HALF-HOUR COMEDY PILOT WRITING AND NOVEL WRITING

The UCLA Extension Writers' Program announces the 2011-12 Master Classes. Beginning in fall 2011 and spanning three consecutive quarters (two quarters for Half-Hour Comedy Pilot), these workshops are designed specifically for writers on the verge of producing professional quality work.

Application Deadline:

*September 2, 2011, 4PM PST for Feature Film Writing and Half-Hour Comedy Pilot Writing

*September 3, 2011, 4PM PST for Novel Writing

Master Class in Feature Film Writing / 9 Months

With Billy Mernit

This Master Class is for developing screenwriters who want to take a screenplay from concept through first draft, rewrite, and polish, with the goal of completing a professional-quality script ready for the marketplace. This is a high-level course, with challenges and expectations designed to inspire and guide students in creating their very best work. Taught in an intimate workshop-setting, the class provides a positive and supportive environment for in-depth analysis of each writer's work. With enrollment limited to eight, students receive personalized attention tailored to the individual, as well as the opportunity to brainstorm and problem-solve with the instructor and dedicated colleagues. By reading and critiquing classmates' works-in-progress, students sharpen their analytical skills while also developing a valuable objectivity regarding their own work. The course addresses all facets of screenwriting, including structure, character, and theme, with particular emphasis on craft, narrative drive, and creating a compelling emotional through-line. Each writer is encouraged to find his/her unique voice and style, while also developing healthy and productive writing habits. Guest speakers provide additional insights into the lives of successful working writers. Those with the time, desire, and determination to push themselves to the heights of their creative energies will thrive in this Master Class. The instructor is committed to helping serious students produce their best work while also guiding them to a professional approach that will serve them throughout their writing careers.



Billy Mernit, MFA, screenwriter and novelist; WGA member who is a story analyst for Universal Pictures and the author of *Writing the Romantic Comedy* (Harper/Collins) and *Imagine Me and You* (Shaye Areheart/Random House). Mr. Mernit received the UCLA Extension Outstanding Instructor Award in Screenwriting, 2001.

In the instructor's words...

"The Master Class is about as pure and focused an environment for creativity that a screenwriter could desire – it's all about the work. If you've got something to say, the Master Class offers you a safe place where you'll be able to figure out the most effective way to say it. And there's no room for "I can't," especially when we're all in it together, and everyone's invested in your story. My job is to keep you honest, and to push you beyond your supposed limits. I'm primarily dedicated to helping you dig out your truths, to get your passion onto the page. And I've found that this kind of unique workshop brings out the best in writers. Everyone is striving to solve craft problems in the most inventive ways, to plumb the depths of their characters, to follow their thematic ideas into the most fertile, uncharted territories. There's an energy, a wonderful combustion that happens, when we're all inspiring each other to stretch, take risks, and meet new challenges. You're going to emerge from the Master Class with a finished screenplay and with insights that will inform your work for years to come." – Billy Mernit

In a student's words...

"He's so experienced. So intelligent. No one sizes up a script faster or has more ideas about where to take it."
– Former Student of Billy Mernit, 2010

Applying to the Master Class in Feature Film Writing:

Enrollment in this 9-month workshop is by submission only. Visitors are not permitted at any time. Applying early is encouraged.

Application fee: \$50 (nonrefundable)

Registration fee: \$3,500 payable upon acceptance.

The registration fee includes participation in one 30-week master class, consideration of a complete feature screenplay by an established agent or manager, free entry into the UCLA Extension Screenplay Competition, and the opportunity to enroll for free in one unlimited-enrollment Writers' Program one-day course per quarter (three total).

Participants are notified of acceptance by September 16, 2011. Classes begin October 3, 2011.

Your application fee of \$50 can be paid either online at www.uclaextension.edu or in person in the UCLA Extension building at 10995 LeConte Ave., Los Angeles. **Use Reg. #W6062.** Scripts received without payment of application fees will not be considered.

Registration fees must be received by the UCLA Extension Registrar's Office within seven days of notification of acceptance.

All submissions must include the following materials:

- ▶ A one-page personal statement that includes your writing background, previous screenwriting courses taken as well as your email, home address and day job, if applicable.
- ▶ One writing sample consisting of the first 20 pages of your best completed screenplay, plus a one-page synopsis of the entire script

Submit personal statement, writing sample, and synopsis electronically to writers@uclaextension.edu. Please specify Master Class in Feature Film Writing in the subject line.

Submission materials will not be returned. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

UCLA Extension reserves the right to cancel or reschedule programs and to change instructors. Guest speakers are subject to change due to professional commitments.

Deadline: Submission materials and application fees must be received by 4 pm (PST), September 2, 2011 in order to be considered.

Master Class in Half-Hour Comedy Pilot Writing/ 6 Months

With Phil Kellard

In a highly focused and collaborative workshop environment, writers start with a concept for a situation comedy series and develop it through outline, the pitch, first draft, re-write, and the final product: a polished pilot script ready to take out to agents, producers, studios, and networks. Emphasis is placed on complex characterization, comedic structure, and the pilot story and potential for future episodes. Participants gain an in-depth understanding of the marketplace and where their series concept may be best suited, whether multi-camera, single-camera, dramedy, or animation. Viewing and discussing examples of classic pilot episodes provide insight into the creative process. In addition, Master Class students pitch their ideas to guest professionals who give them network level feedback and notes.



Phil Kellard is a writer-director and WGA member who was executive producer on *The Wayans Brothers* and *Martin* and producer on *Doogie Howser, MD*; *Hooperman*; and *My Two Dads*. Mr. Kellard currently is developing hour and half-hour series for network and cable and has written pilots for The Disney Channel, Showtime, FBC, and the Sci Fi Channel. He has received an Emmy Award for instructional programming.

In the instructor's words...

"Now's the time to raise the level of your commitment and writing skills. In this Master Class, you will go from writer to writer/creator. The ultimate wish for a television writer is to create his or her own series, get it on the air and have a share in the ownership of the work. This is where you start--with concept, development and final draft. A spec script for an existing television series shows your talent and is your calling card for a freelance assignment or a staff position. A well-developed and constructed pilot is your voice; it's who you are, the story you want to tell, and your passion project. More and more these days, TV executives are interested in reading spec sitcom pilots written by aspiring writers. They are looking for something fresh, for the next "big idea." What is your idea? Will it sustain audience interest? Will it be entertaining and original? Can it live for one hundred episodes? It is my job to help you answer these questions and guide you on this journey that will surely test your creative fortitude. I'm looking forward to it. I hope you are too." – Phil Kellard

In a student's words...

"Phil is knowledgeable and generous with info about the industry and he provided sound advice on structuring scripts. I would absolutely take another one of his classes."

- Former Student of Phil Kellard, 2010

Applying to the Master Class in Half-Hour Comedy Pilot Writing:

Enrollment in this 6-month workshop is by submission only. Visitors are not permitted at any time.

Application fee: \$50 (nonrefundable)

Registration fee: \$2,400 payable upon acceptance.

The registration fee includes participation in one 20-week master class, consideration of a half-hour comedy pilot script by an established agent or manager, and the opportunity to enroll for free in one Writers' Program unlimited-enrollment one-day course per quarter (two total).

Participants are notified of acceptance by September 16, 2011. Classes begin on October 6, 2011.

Your application fee of \$50 can be paid either online at www.uclaextension.edu or in person in the UCLA Extension building at 10995 LeConte Ave., Los Angeles. **Use Reg. #W6061.** Scripts received without payment of application fees will not be considered.

Registration fees must be received by the UCLA Extension Registrar's Office within seven days of notification of acceptance.

All submissions must include the following materials:

- ▶ A one-page personal statement that includes your writing background and goals, previous television courses taken as well as your email, home address and day job, if applicable.
- ▶ A spec script of an existing series or pilot.

Submit personal statement and writing sample electronically to writers@uclaextension.edu. Please specify Master Class in Half-Hour Comedy Pilot Writing in the subject line.

Submission materials will not be returned. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

UCLA Extension reserves the right to cancel or reschedule programs and to change instructors. Guest speakers are subject to change due to professional commitments.

Deadline: Submission materials and application fees must be received by 4pm (PST), September 2, 2011 in order to be considered.

Master Class in Novel Writing / 9 Months (Online/Low-Residency)

With Lisa Cron

This dynamic and rigorous online/low-residency Master Class in Novel Writing is designed for committed writers, serious about revising their novels and getting published. Because in today's competitive marketplace it's essential that a novel be fully realized before it's submitted, our goal is to make sure the story you envision is actually there on the page, so that the words alone catapult the reader into your world from the first sentence onward. We focus on the nature of story itself, and how to create and tether each novelistic element--compelling characters, authentic dialogue, universal themes, vivid setting, even the weather --to the story you're telling. In addition to in-depth individual one-on-one mentoring tailored to each participant's unique voice, style and vision, the nine-month, 30-week online component provides insightful peer critique, all with a keen eye towards results. The four-day residency in Los Angeles, two-thirds of the way through the program, zeros in on crafting what agents respond to in query letters, synopses, and the first pages of your novel, while deepening the sense of community we've built online through a lively, enriching mix of workshops, seminars, guest speakers, and literary field trips. Master Class students' novel excerpts are submitted to an established agent for review and consideration at the completion of the course.



Instructor Biography:

Partner, Michael Cron Literary Agency, representing a variety of fiction and nonfiction writers. Ms. Cron has been a consultant, agent, and story analyst for the Angela Rinaldi Literary Agency, the William Morris Agency, Warner Bros., Miramax, and Village Roadshow. She spent a decade working in publishing as an editor and publicist at W. W. Norton and John Muir Publications.

In the instructor's words...

"Few notions are more damaging to writers than the popular belief that writing a successful novel is a matter of learning to 'write well.' Which is taken to mean the use of beautiful language, vibrant imagery, authentic sounding dialogue, a fresh voice, insightful metaphors, well-rounded characters, and a whole lot of really vivid sensory details. But even if you do all that well, you're still likely to pen what's known in the trade as a beautifully written, 'So what?' Because writing well and the ability to write a story are two separate things. Only one of which really matters: telling a story. One that, whether via an exquisite literary novel or a rousing mass market potboiler, incites a sense of urgency from the very first sentence. Because the one hard and fast truth, regardless of what genre you're writing in, is that readers have to want to know what happens next. Everything else is gravy. My job is to help you zero in with laser beam intensity on the story you're telling, and then make sure that every single element of your novel is harnessed to it, so that it leaps off the page - compelling, fresh and original.

In a student's words...

"Lisa Cron is amazing. When I signed up for this class, I thought it would be cool to get the perspective of an agent. But looking back on it now, it's also a reader's, writer's, 'been there, done that, know what you're going through' perspective. Her comments on my submissions were thoughtful, tough, and honest. I couldn't have asked for more." - 2010 Former student of Lisa Cron

Applying to the Master Class in Novel Writing:

Enrollment in this 9-month workshop is by submission only. Visitors are not permitted at any time.

Application fee: \$50 (nonrefundable)

Registration fee: \$3,500 payable upon acceptance.

The registration fee includes participation in one 30-week master class, consideration of a novel excerpt by an established agent or manager and automatic submission into the James Kirkwood Literary Prize competition.

Travel, lodging, and all other expenses for the Master Class in Novel Writing (Online/Low Residency) are not covered by registration fees.

Participants are notified of acceptance by September 16, 2011. Classes begin September 21, 2011.

Your application fee of \$50 can be paid either online at www.uclaextension.edu or in person in the UCLA Extension Building at 10995 LeConte Ave. , Los Angeles. **Use Reg. #W6124.** Manuscripts received without payment of application fees will not be considered.

Registration fees must be received by the UCLA Extension Registrar's Office within seven days of notification of acceptance.

All submissions must include the following materials:

- ▶ A one-page personal statement that includes your writing background, previous creative writing courses taken, and a brief synopsis of your novel-in-progress
- ▶ Completed first draft of your novel
(Note: participants in this master class work only on the novel submitted for admission. No exceptions.)

Submit personal statement and writing sample electronically to writers@uclaextension.edu. Please specify "Master Class in Novel Writing (Online/Low Residency)" in the subject line.

Submission materials will not be returned. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

UCLA Extension reserves the right to cancel or reschedule programs and to change instructors. Guest speakers are subject to change due to professional commitments.

Deadline: Submission materials and application fees must be received by 4pm (PST), September 3, 2011 in order to be considered.