

COURSE ABSTRACT- SCREENPLAY WRITING

Objective: This is 5 days, (4-hour classes) course designed specifically for Women professionals engaged in the film industry in various capacities. The course aims to familiarize the participants to the concepts and tools of writing for films and series.

COURSE CONTENTS

CONCEPTS OF SCREENPLAY WRITING COVERING INTRODUCTORY MODULES ON:

- 1. Language of Cinema:** Understanding the language of cinema as a basis from where everything starts from. Learning the uniqueness of the elements of cinematic unfolding. Importance of understanding cinematic language to write engaging scripts.
- 2. Plot, Story and the Setting:** Creating a unique world and setting for the story involving action, emotions, thematic implications and transitions.
- 3. Theme & Premise:** What is my film about? Who is my story about? Why am I telling this story?
- 4. Elements of a screenplay:** Introduction to key elements of a screenplay. Formatting. Scene breakdown. Transitions. Dialogue. Action.
- 5. Structuring:** Understanding various types of structures and ways of unfolding. The basics of the 3-act structure and the arc.
- 6. Characterization:** Creating unique characters. Who are these people in the story and what do they want? Why now and what happens if they fail (Stakes). What are they willing to do to get what they want? Their backstories. Their Traits. Their arcs.
- 7. Conflict:** What is the central conflict? What are the secondary conflicts? What are Sources of conflict: Internal and External.
- 8. Subplots and Secondary characters:** The role of Subplots and other characters in a story. The relationship dynamics of the secondary characters with the central characters. Their function in the story.
- 9. Thinking Visually:** How to show more and tell less, make your characters do more and talk less. Learning how not to depend entirely on the dialogue and finding visual solutions to the challenges faced during writing a screenplay.
- 10. Scene Design:** How to write Scenes. Why is this scene there in the script? Understanding the purpose of the specific scene. Making it stand out. Knowing how to start. Realizing how to end.

11. Dialogue Writing: Understanding the craft of writing dialogue. How to avoid expository dialogue. Making everyone sound unique and different.

12. Adapting Literary works: How to adapt novels, plays and other published works into a screenplay of a film or a series. The difference between a novel/short story etc. with a screenplay. Collaborating with novelists. The Creative liberty of the screenwriters. Reinventing the novel for the screen. What to include. What to exclude. What and how to add.

13. Writing Series: Challenges of writing series. The specific world of OTT as opposed to the world of writing for TV. How to write the arc of a Season. Writing overall structure of the series and making the structure of each episode as a part of the whole. Creating cliffhangers. Resolutions of episodes, season and series.

Methodology: A combination of interactive online lectures combined with viewing, and analyzing films and scenes in conjunction with group discussions with the participants. There will be masterclasses by Industry professionals. Clips and videos will be screened to illustrate the point at hand, and reference materials will be provided.

Deliverables: Option to submit a completed screenplay of a feature length film or the pilot episode of a series (With the entire season story and arc) after the completion of the course. A window with a specific time period will be announced within which the participants can submit their work. NFDC and Netflix will form a committee to evaluate the submissions and if found suitable, a couple of scripts will have the chance to be selected for NFDC Screenwriting Lab or at the NFDC Film Bazaar.

Additional Requirement: Basic knowledge of computer operations is must as the participants will be working on screenplay writing software like Celtx etc.

Course Director: Munish Bhardwaj is a screenwriter, producer and director working in the film industry for over 25 years. He has been teaching as visiting faculty with FTII's national outreach programme SKIFT (Skilling India in Film and TV) since the last 5 years apart from conducting courses and masterclasses at universities and for Organisations across India. Munish has also regularly conducted screenwriting courses for NFDC for the past 2 years.