



**WGC  
Screenwriting  
Awards**

**Official Rules  
Handbook  
2010/2011**

## About the WGC Screenwriting Awards

For fifteen years, the annual WGC Screenwriting Awards has been shining the spotlight on the achievements of our members and the key role they play in every production.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for entry, scripts must have been produced within the WGC's jurisdiction. Also, the date of first North American broadcast (TV, internet), theatrical release, or Canadian Festival screening – whichever comes first – must be between December 1, 2009, and November 30, 2010.

- All entries must be produced within the WGC's jurisdiction and be written and submitted by a WGC member(s) in good standing.
- Any writer or writing team may enter one (1) script per category to a maximum of three (3) entries.

### Entry Fees

An entry fee of \$30 Canadian is charged to cover photocopying and courier costs related to the judging process.

### Categories

- Animation (*non prime-time*)
- Children & Preschool (*live action, non prime-time*)
- Documentary
- Movies & Miniseries
- Shorts & Web Series
- TV Comedy (*includes prime-time animation*)
- TV Drama

*Please note: at the discretion of the Awards committee, no award may be given if fewer than five (5) entries are received in any category.*

### Which Script Should Be Submitted?

**ALL SUBMISSIONS:** Choose your best draft - be it first, second or polish. However, the draft you choose must contain substantially your own writing. If two or more writers are credited, they should select the script together. Before submitting a script with multiple writers, please obtain the permission of all credited writers and consensus on which draft will be submitted.

Any writer or writing team may enter one (1) script per category to a maximum of three (3) entries.

Choose the category in which you think your script belongs. The WGC Screenwriting Awards will endeavour to have it judged with similar scripts. Should your script be moved to a different category, you will be notified of the change and have the option to withdraw your script from competition should you choose to do so.

WGC members are encouraged to submit their own work.

**EPISODIC SPECIFIC:** Please include with your submission a one-pager summarizing the back-story for the episode.

**DOCUMENTARY SPECIFIC:** Please be sure to include with your script, a DVD copy of the finished project, along with a signed release form authorizing the WGC to make copies of the entry for judging purposes.

## Deadline for Entries

Entries must be received at the Guild office by close of business (5:30 p.m. EST) on Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

## The Judging Procedure

The preliminary or “first round” judging is done by teams of volunteer Guild members. The screenwriters’ anonymity is maintained, and the entries are judged on the basis of the written material only, with the exception of documentaries. In the case of documentaries, a DVD copy of the finished project is also reviewed.

Finalist nominations will be based on outstanding achievement. If no script is deemed outstanding, the WGC Screenwriting Awards reserves the right to waive the nomination and the award. If there are insufficient entries in any category, those entries may be placed in another category as determined by the Chair of the Awards Committee, or that category may be eliminated from the 2011 WGC Screenwriting Awards.

The final judging is done by members of the WGC National Forum. The winners will be announced in April 2011 at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual WGC Screenwriting Awards.

If a script is chosen to receive the award, all credited writers will be acknowledged. In the event of a tie, two or more awards in any one category may be presented.

The WGC canvasses for member volunteers to judge the WGC Screenwriting Awards each year. Current WGC members in good standing with expertise in any of the following categories are eligible to judge:

- Animation (*non prime-time*)
- Children & Youth (*live action, non prime-time*)
- Documentary
- Movies & Miniseries
- Shorts & Web Series
- TV Comedy (*includes prime-time animation*)
- TV Drama

Members selected as judges may be required to sign a form stating that they have read the nominated material and have no conflict of interest in their judging category.

Members are not eligible to judge any category in which they have submitted an entry.

To volunteer as a judge, please email [awards@wgc.ca](mailto:awards@wgc.ca)

## **Trophies, Awards & Certificates**

All credited writers (both members and non-members) who win a WGC Screenwriting Award will receive a certificate and acknowledgment in various WGC publications. One award trophy per winning entry will be provided – additional trophies can be purchased through the WGC.

All credited writers (both members and non-members) who progress to the finalist stage of competition in the WGC Screenwriting Awards will receive a certificate and acknowledgment in various WGC publications.

## **Special Awards**

### **Alex Barris Mentorship Award**

*(presented every other year – next award to be presented in 2012)*

Throughout an illustrious career that flourished from the earliest days of Canadian television, Alex Barris was a natural mentor, always eager to offer guidance, make an introduction or otherwise help a person with talent move up in the industry he loved so much. To honour his contribution, his family decided to create The Alex Barris Mentorship Award, established in 2005, to allow fellow WGC members an opportunity to acknowledge their mentors in front of their peers.

Past winners of the Alex Barris Mentorship Award include Peter Mitchell (2010), Allan Magee (2008), Ilana Frank (2007), Josh Miller (2006), and David Peddie (2005).

### **Jim Burt Screenwriting Prize**

*(presented every other year – next award to be presented in 2011)*

The prize was created to continue the work of the late Jim Burt in recognizing and nurturing long-form screenwriting talent. In a 20-year career at the CBC, Jim's championing of Canadian writers and their stories resulted in the production of some 75 long-form dramas including *The War Between Us*, *The Boys of St. Vincent*, *The Arrow*, *Peacekeepers*, and *Nights Below Station Street*. These productions met with national and international acclaim and embodied excellence in Canadian storytelling.

Past winners of the Jim Burt Screenwriting Prize include Riley Adams "*Cold Rush*" (2009); Tony Elliott "*Stranger Than You*" (2008); Ryan Redford "*Bone*" (2007); Jason Hreno "*Two Mountains*" (2006); Andrea Gutsche "*Dead Sparrows*" (2005); Sherry White "*Crackie*" (2004); Gordon Pengilly "*Drumheller or Dangerous Times*" (2003); Aubrey Nealon "*Idaho Peak*" (2002)

### **The Writers Block**

The Writers Block Award is presented to a WGC member who has demonstrated a record of exceptional service to the Writers Guild of Canada and whose efforts have strengthened the Canadian screenwriting community as a whole. The recipient of The Writers Block Award is determined by the Writers Guild of Canada Council.

The Writers Block Award has previously been awarded to Rebecca Schechter (2010), Karen Walton (2009), Anne MacNaughton, Jeremy Hole and Jack Blum (2008), Sondra Kelly and Sugith Varughese (2007), Fred Yackman (2006), Jill Golick (2005), Pete White (2004), Bill Williams (2003), Jack Gray (2002) and David Barlow (2000).

## **WGC Showrunner Award**

Showrunners are the writer/producers whose creative vision drives a television series. These are the men and women who give the first okay on a story idea and take the last pass over the script. They shepherd the project from pitch to post. They have the longest hours, the most responsibility and the final say. They run the show.

An award for this work was long overdue and so, in 2007, with pride and admiration, the Writers Guild of Canada introduced the WGC Showrunner Award.

Past winners of the WGC Showrunner Award include Heather Conkie (2010), Mark Farrell (2009), Peter Mohan (2008), and Brad Wright (2007).

*For more information on the special awards, please see the relevant links on the WGC website.*

## **Questions**

If you have a question relating to the WGC Screenwriting Awards please email [awards@wgc.ca](mailto:awards@wgc.ca)

## **How to Recommend Changes to the WGC Award Rules**

WGC Award rules are reviewed annually by the Awards committee.

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions for upcoming Awards, please submit in writing to [awards@wgc.ca](mailto:awards@wgc.ca). Your emails will be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Awards Committee for reply or consideration.