WGC Screenwriting Awards

Alex Barris Mentorship Award 2024

We writers know how important mentors are. Most of us got our first break or most valuable lesson from a mentor who gave freely of their time to help us become better at our craft. Now it's time to publicly acknowledge that person's impact on your career, by nominating them for the Alex Barris Mentorship Award.

Alex Barris was a writer, broadcaster and journalist, a pioneer of Canadian television and proud member of the WGC. Throughout his career, Alex always gave his time and talent to help others get a start in the industry he loved. After his death in 2004, his family, friends and the WGC decided to keep his name and spirit alive by sponsoring the Alex Barris Mentorship Award.

The award acknowledges one person who has made an outstanding commitment to help a writer — or several writers — get ahead in the business. While the nominator must be a WGC member, the recipient need not be. It could be a teacher or producer or a story editor who stepped out of the traditional job description and did something extraordinary to help kickstart your career.

Past recipients of The Alex Barris Mentorship Award include David Peddie (2005), Josh Miller (2006), Ilana Frank (2007), Allan Magee (2008), Peter Mitchell (2010), Barbara Samuels (2012), Susin Nielsen (2014), Clive Endersby (2016), Sherry White (2018), Nathalie Younglai (2020), and Matt Huether (2022).

To nominate your mentor, please submit a written description of their impact on your career. Feel free to include tales from others to help the jury understand just how outstanding this mentor has been. A jury will select the winner, and an award will be presented at the WGC Screenwriting Awards on May 13, 2024.

If you nominated someone in the past and they were not chosen to receive the award, please do consider nominating them again.

Deadline: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. EST

Submissions accepted by EMAIL only to n.vanvoorst@wgc.ca with "Alex Barris Mentorship Award" in the subject line.