



### Mission Statement

"The goal of this non-profit organization is to develop great writers. We desire to empower our members with intense training, hands-on experience, expansive resources and extensive industry exposure. We encourage freedom of expression via quality writing and filmmaking, without compromising the image of people of color."

# ORGANIZATION OF BLACK SCREENWRITERS MEETING

Golden State Mutual Bldg., 1999 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Saturday, March 1, 2008 - 10:00AM

## MINUTES

### Call to Order & Welcome

Jennifer Williams

Jennifer welcomed members and visitors at 10:23am.

### Approval of Minutes

Approval tabled for members to review.

### General Updates

Jennifer Williams

Sylvia & Jennifer had a Preliminary meeting with Golden State Mutual Building Manager, to arrange additional usage of the building and secure office space.

Dramatic Read will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April 19<sup>th</sup> instead of the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Larger presence on the web, we're building an OBS Blog. You'll get an email when we're ready to launch. This will be the site for online discussions, Q&A on writing, etc., until our website is fully functional. <http://obswriter.blogspot.com/>

### Committee Reports - Part 1

#### Bylaws Committee

Distribute Ballot

#### Recommendations for Revisions to bylaws

The Bylaws Committee has met and this is the 1<sup>st</sup> of their recommendations for revisions. Please read ballot, vote, fold, and return the ballot to JaSheika. Outcome will be sent via email.

#### Communication Committee

JaSheika James

JaSheika encouraged members to sign up for the Communications committee if they haven't already committed to another.

Also, in the newsletter there will be a section titled "My Story". My Story is an opportunity for members to submit a story, to showcase their writing ability. If members are interested in submitting material, please email JaSheika at [jjames@obswriter.com](mailto:jjames@obswriter.com).

#### Production Committee

Doug Jackson &  
Danny Harmeling

Kim reminded members that the Production Committee's call for shorts were to be submitted to the committee today. OBS will start to produce their own films written, directed, and produced by OBS members, beginning with shorts. The shorts will be read blindly by the



Production Committee and the best script will be chosen for the first production. The short that is produced will also be one of the films we watch at "A Night at the Movies" in May.

## Guest Speaker

Valerie Spiller began her television career in 1978 as a temporary hire in Cooperative Advertising for Twentieth Century Fox Studios. One year later that temp job led to her first job with Spelling and Goldberg Television as the assistant to the Senior Vice President of Production Finance.

Valerie was quickly promoted to the position of Payroll Manager for Above-The-Line Talent and Music. This was the training ground she would need to prepare her to become a production accountant with Spelling & Goldberg. During her tenure with the company she would be the lead accountant on several series for the company, including such hit shows as "Love Boat", "Dynasty" and "Hotel."

She left Spelling and Goldberg in 1989 to become a freelance production accountant working with Columbia/Tri-Star Television on such shows as "My Two Dads" and "Baby Talk" and also did a short project for PBS.

In 1991 she returned to Spelling Entertainment acting as Controller for a Movie of The Week, "Sexual Advances" in Vancouver, BC. Upon wrapping of the movie, she was asked to help launch, as head of Production Finance, a new Drama Series by the name of "Melrose Place". Valerie remained with the series until 1998.

It was her varied experience that caught the attention of the Executives at PolyGram Television and in 1998 she accepted the position as Vice President of Production for their Television arm; responsible for overseeing both Domestic and International syndicated shows. She was responsible for the physical production of such shows as "Blind Date" and "Motown Live" and the series "Total Recall" and "The Crow". Universal soon won the bid to take over PolyGram Entertainment and she remained with Universal continuing to oversee the current productions and launching new content such as the dating/reality series "Fifth Wheel" now in syndication and "Speed Dating".

Valerie discussed her duties as an Estimator for TV series and the process of taking a script, breaking it down, and determining the cost to produce what writers create. She expressed that the numbers she and her team give to a producer or a studio could be the opportunity to green light your project or conversely shut it down

(Sample budgets were distributed, along with a template to see what different elements are involved).

## Committee Reports - Part 2

### Outreach Committee

Kimberly Allen

Kim introduced P.J., an independent filmmaker. P.J. is producing a show that displays short films, titled "Shorties on Shorts". If members are interested in submitting, they can submit to P.J. via email at [pjfromdc@gmail.com](mailto:pjfromdc@gmail.com).

Kim announced that "A Night at the Movies" will be held on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at Golden State Mutual. If members have shorts, or know anyone who has a short film thirty minutes or less, they can email Kim at [kallen7000@yahoo.com](mailto:kallen7000@yahoo.com) to submit.

### Education Committee

Rene Rawls

Rene recapped what happened last month:

1. OBS participated in the PAFF workshop and it was very successful.
2. Members volunteered for PAFF and we were very pleased with the turnout.

Rene informed that next month Tracy Grant will give the "Top 10 @ 10" - topic: providing useful feedback to writers. Additionally, the library will be up and running.



Education Tip of the Month

Carol Forbes

*Top 10@ 10*

**Top Ten Things You Need in the  
First Ten Pages of Your Script**

BACK TO BASICS WORKSHOP - Part 1

Teri Brown-Jackson &  
Sylvia Franklin

Teri Brown-Jackson discussed the Do's and Don'ts of Comedy writing.

Sylvia Franklin informed of the Do's and Don'ts when writing for Drama.

\* A pizza and salad lunch was served in between sessions for all in attendance.

**Upcoming Events:**

Writer's Room Retreat

Kimberly Allen

*Aug 15 - 17, 2008??*

Kim announced that OBS is pushing the Virtual Writer's Room to August. She also informed that OBS would like to introduce having an actor's workshop in the summer, for members to look at all aspects of the industry in an effort to develop us as writers.

The Bylaws Committee introduced themselves, and read the articles of the amendment ballot that was passed out to members to vote upon.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Special Guest:

Ms. Kellie Griffin, Show Runner  
Tyler Perry Studios

**OBS, We Can Get Here....**

CLASSIC & PLATINUM MOVIES | A WIDE RANGE OF MOVIES THAT APPEAL TO THE URBAN DEMOGRAPHIC

"Amour Infinity"

"Park Day"

"Treasure In The Hood"

"Cold Feet"

"Honeybee"

"All About You"



January 2008



February 2008



March 2008



April 2008



May 2008



June 2008