



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, May 3, 2008 - 10:00AM

MINUTES

Call to Order & Welcome

Jennifer Williams

The meeting was called to order @ 10:41 am - Jennifer welcomed all members, and opened with the cold read.

Cold Read w/ Q&A

Rene Rawls presented her pilot. Members lent their acting skills to hold a cold read of the first ten pages of the pilot. Jennifer announced that this was a great example of what it's like when you submit your script for the Dramatic Reading.

Meet the Members

Jennifer Williams

Members that have joined from 01/2008 - 04/2008

Members that have joined from 01/2008 - 5/2008 introduced themselves to the general body, and informed why they joined OBS and what they are currently working on.

Approval of Minutes

TABLED

Nominations for Financial Secretary

Jennifer Williams

A call for nominations for Financial Secretary was made. Emill Shavoz nominated himself. There were no other nominations or volunteers. On a motion by Emill Shavoz and a 2nd by Loretta Johnson - The nominations were closed. Members will hear a formal statement from Emill Shavoz at the June 7th meeting at which time his name will appear on the ballot for the position of Financial Secretary during the Special Election.

Screenwriter News

Jennifer Williams

TABLED, Caryn Beach was unavailable.

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Committee Reports

Production Committee

Doug Jackson

Script Challenge

At the top of the year, the creation of OBS film production was announced, and members were asked to submit a script for the first production entitled 'The OBS Script Challenge'. The idea was to write a script about 3-5 pages in length. The winner of the OBS script challenge is Chuck Cummings, who wrote Baby Cammie - The Quest. Pre-production has started, and the director is Zellie Dember-Slack.



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Outreach Committee

Kimberly Allen

Kim announced "Night at the Movies" will be held on Thursday May 15th. Admission is \$10. It will be held at 1999 West Adams Blvd. between 7pm-10pm (doors will open at 6:30pm).

Education Committee

Rene Rawls

Rene introduced Kevin Killebrew to present the Top 10@10, and asked that members who have an area of expertise that they would like to see presented in the Top 10@10 please see or email her at rnrawls@hotmail.com.

Education Tip of the Month

Kevin Killebrew

Top 10@ 10- Feed Your Creativity

Kevin discussed the importance of ensuring that your body is nourished with the proper foods and portions in order to keep your creative juices flowing.

OBS: Old Business & Updates

Jennifer Williams

Dramatic Read

Casee Maxfield discussed her experience in having her script, *Ides of March*, presented in the OBS Dramatic Read. She suggested that members submit their script if they have them, cause the read allows you to see it in a different light.

Edit Vision Films

Cynthia Bloomfield, Producer from Edit Vision addressed members stating Edit Vision is looking to work with an OBS writer on a special project. Additionally, she shared that she was really happy to hear about OBS because her company really wants to put that talent to work, and wants to be able to make sure they create images that are a positive reflection of the community. She looks forward to working with all OBS members in the future. Ms. Bloomfield noted that her introduction to OBS was an invitation to the Dramatic Read (the 1st one) where she was impressed by the scripts she heard.

Los Angeles Film Festival - June 19 - 29, 2008

OBS has chosen to host a film for the LA Film Festival, entitled "Medicine for Melancholy". OBS will be listed in the Film Festival printed materials, on the website, and will have an opportunity to address the audience and present handout before each screening of the movie. Day of hosting is TBD.

Special Election (June 7, 2008)

Jennifer announced that OBS will hold its special election on June 7th that will include Board of Directors nominees and the Financial Secretary.

OBS: New Business

Jennifer Williams

Feedback

Members were given the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on OBS activities over the past five (5) months including their input on Writer's groups, Dramatic Reads, and various other issues that have been on their minds.

Jennifer announced and provided a hand-out for the WB Writer's Workshop Comedy Program was open for submission beginning May 1 - July 5.



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Guest Speaker

Ms. Victoria Wisdom, Agent & Partner
Literary Agency of Becsey
Wisdom Kalajian

Victoria Wisdom, agent and partner, at literary agency Becsey Wisdom Kalajian for fifteen years. At BWK, Victoria represented the writers and directors of Oscar winning films as diverse as **"The Usual Suspects"**, **"The Red Violin"**, British Oscar and NYC Film Critic's winner **"Love & Death on Long Island"** and Berlin Film Festival Prize winner **"Italian for Beginners."**

BWK agency clients have included such Oscar hits as **"Crash"**, **"Million Dollar Baby"** and **"The Fugitive"**. Additionally, Victoria sold the hit CBS drama series **"Criminal Minds"**, now in its third season.

Collectively, Victoria's writer and director clients have won The Cannes Film Festival, the Berlin Film Festival, and the Sundance Film Festival and have been nominated for six Academy Awards, winning four.

Wisdom has also represented the Academy Award careers of 2007 Oscar nominee writer/director **Deepa Mehta** ("Fire", "Water"), writers **Ernest Thompson** ("On Golden Pond"), **Christopher McQuarrie** ("The Usual Suspects"), **Doug McGrath** ("Bullets Over Broadway") as well as director **Bryan Singer** ("X-Men") and Oscar winner **Seth Winston** ("Session Man"). Additionally Victoria represented the writers of such mainstream hits as **Aliens VS. Predators**, **G. I. Jane**, **Rambo** and **Hellboy**.

Prior to working at BWK, Wisdom was an agent at International Creative Management and head of the East Coast Literary Department for Agency for the Performing Arts.

Victoria was educated in film and literature at New York University and began her career as a reader at Warner Films, United Artists and Columbia Pictures. Victoria currently also teaches advanced screenwriting at UCLA.

Victoria recently became a producer/manager setting up the thriller **Labyrinths** with **Hilary Swank** starring, the comedy **Amateurs** at Paramount Pictures, thriller **Harrow Lake** with Overture, and romantic comedy **Taravella** starring Amy Adams.

Victoria's creative partner Jeffrey Sagansky, former Chairman of Sony Pictures and President of CBS, is the co-owner of ContentFilm, Peace Arch Productions and Winchester Capital, all financing feature films through gap equity and distribution.

Victoria discussed the importance of knowing the rules of the film/television business so that you can learn how to break them. She noted that writers need to demonstrate their skill and professionalism in order to garner the attention and respect of those they intend to do business with, i.e. Studios, Producers, Agents, etc. Expressed that we should immerse ourselves with how the business works by doing our homework, taking screenwriting classes, reading the trades, going out to see films and reading screenplays. She stressed that learning how you (the writer) fit into a universe (TV/Film industry) that's already cooking perfectly fine without you is where the key to your success really lays.

Upcoming Events:

OBS Movie Night	Thursday, May 15, 2008	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM
OBS Family Picnic	Saturday, June 14, 2008	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Writer's Room Retreat	Friday - Sunday, Aug 15 - 17, 2008 - Arcadia, CA	

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 7, 2008

