



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, June 7, 2008 - 10:00AM

MINUTES

Call to Order & Welcome

Jennifer Williams

The meeting started at 10:48 am. Jennifer welcomed members and guests, and announced that a few members were at the Hollywood Black Film Festival. OBS Member Corey Moore has been selected as a finalist in the Storyteller Category and OBS Member Kathryn Taylor's short film is being showcased.

Industry Q&A

Jennifer presented "Did you know this was in the trades?" where members were given a 10 question quiz, and observed a dramatized presentation. The dramatization reflected Jennifer attempting to write spec scripts for several network shows that have been cancelled. This was done in an effort to show members who are thinking about writing a spec should not write.

Presentations of Nominee for Financial Secretary

Jennifer Williams

Emill Shavoz presented himself to the general body as the candidate for the position of Financial Secretary.

Screenwriter News

Jennifer Williams

Meeting w/The CW

Caryn K. Hayes

Caryn K. Hayes, a winner in the 2007 OBS Original Script contest in the television pilot category, described her experience meeting with the CW Creative Executive Tracy Blackwell. She said the meeting was very informative, and that Tracy was very open. She has since maintained a relationship with her and Tracy is helping her navigate her way through the industry.

OBS: Old Business & Updates

Jennifer Williams

Los Angeles Film Festival
June 19 - 29, 2008

Rosalyn Williams, who works for Film Independent, gave a brief overview of the Los Angeles Film Festival. She mentioned that individual tickets are on sale at the box office. Family Day will be on the June 29th. To find out when and where other events will take place, members can go to the website at www.laff.com



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OBS is a Participating Organization with the Los Angeles Film Festival and will host the three screenings of the film "Medicine for Melancholy". On June 20th OBS will have a booth at the Diversity Expo (all day event). It's free to the public, and attendees are asked to be ready to network.

New Alliances

LA Academy of Media and Technology

Lamar Sally, Disney Fellow

OBS and the LA Academy of Media Technology have formed a partnership to expose young people of color to the TV/Film industry. They've put together a 3 day program on directing/writing/producing. Lamar presented a video of the program to members. He announced that they are working to put on a banquet for the kids on June 23, 2008 at Lucy Florence. Disney and HBO reps will be there, so it will be a great opportunity for members to network.

Committee Reports

Production Committee

Doug Jackson

The Production Committee is in Pre-Production of our 1st OBS film and currently into their first rewrite of the script. The committee is looking to finalize the script before the month is over. They hope to begin shooting in August.

The 2008 OBS Script Contest will be officially announced on the 15th. Contest dates are June 15th-September 30th. We have secured agreements with The CW, Our Stories Studios, and Overbrook Entertainment that the winning scripts will be read by and the winners will take a meeting. As part of the criteria all participants must sign a release agreement before any production company will read your script. Additionally, OBS asks you to sign their release as well as an agreement that upon sale of project, to reimburse OBS a one time only fee of 3% of gross sale.

Education Committee

Rene Rawls

Rene introduced the top 10@10 speaker.

Education Tip of the Month

Top 10@ 10

Of Getting In A Writing Program

Doreene Hamilton

Executive Director

Cosby Program

Doreen Hamilton, informed members of the top 10 steps they should take in order to get into a Writing Program. Ms. Hamilton provided great insight into fellowship programs, especially The Cosby Program; as well as invaluable information to assist the writer in accomplishing this goal.

Script Development

Kimberly Allen

Reminded members about script development, and the writer's retreat and also announced OBS "Night at the Movies"



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OBS: New Business

Jennifer Williams

Feedback Cards

Jennifer asked members to provide feedback on their interest in upcoming programs such as:

Filmmaker's Workshop
Dramatic Read - July 19th
Improv Workshop

PANEL MODERATOR

Kimberly Allen - Cosby Fellow

WRITER'S FELLOWSHIP PANEL

Zelie Dember-Slack	Cosby Fellow (Feature Writer)
Quinn Jones	Cosby Fellow (TV Writer)
Yvonne Farrow	ABC Entertainment Television Grant Program
Ron Covington	Disney/ABC Writers Fellowship (Feature)
Tracy Grant	Disney/ABC Writers Fellowship (Television)
Ose Schalz	Fox Diversity Writers Initiative
Rene Rawls	Tribeca All Access

The panel discussed their experience in the various writing programs. Topics ranged from the application and interview process, how they dealt with adversity, what they learned from the programs, and how they have benefited upon completion of the program.

Upcoming Events:

OBS Family Picnic	Saturday, June 14, 2008	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
OBS Movie Night	Thursday, July 17, 2008	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Dramatic Read	Saturday, July 19, 2008	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Writer's Room Retreat	Friday - Sunday, Aug 15 - 17, 2008??	

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Saturday, July 12, 2008

Write on, OBS! Write On!