



PRIVATE SCREENING

The Nashville Screenwriters Conference brings Hollywood magic to Music City

BY STEPHANIE STEWART

At some point, everyone imagines what life would be like if you happened to be a famous screenwriter. Ah, the thought, the dream, of picking up that Oscar. But like any creative career, screenwriting is—bluntly—truly difficult, and breaking into the business? Well, it's just that much tougher. But in June, Nashville residents will have an exceptional opportunity to hob-nob with the elites who've made it in the 'biz, and who happen to be in the know about what makes a good—and marketable—screenplay. And that's why you should be getting your tickets about now for the Nashville Screenwriters Conference, to be held June 4-6.

The backdrop will be the gorgeous, historic Union Station Hotel. Here, some of Hollywood's top minds—writers, directors, managers, agents and studio executives—will be on hand for lectures and panel discussions to help aspiring writers and others interested in the film world network, learn and explore the inner sanctum of the “industry.”

The list of panelists and guests is extraordinary, and includes the likes of John Lee Hancock (*The Rookie*, *The Alamo* and a little flick called *The Blind Side* that's getting national attention); Craig Mazin (*The Specials*, *Scary Movie 3* and *4*); Linda Licher (*Finding Neverland*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Juno*, *Quantum of Solace*); Derek Haas and Michael Brandt (*Wanted*, *3:10 to Yuma*, *2 Fast, 2 Furious*) and

Scott Frank (*The Lookout*, *Minority Report*, *Out of Sight*, *Get Shorty*).

Panel topics promise to cover a wide variety of areas, from the fundamentals to specialized material, like “Music in the Movies,” which should have a lot of potential interest for the songwriting and musical community. As an added bonus, attendees can opt to buy packages that include a selection of social events in the weekend's calendar. These include exciting interactive lunches and evening events with panelists and guests, so you really have the opportunity to get their full perspective on the issues at hand.

If you're coming, there are discounted prices for students and a wide variety of package options to ensure you get to participate in the best way, both for your career and your budget. Space is limited, so you should consider buying early to make sure you get the workshops and events you want most. This is the only chance you'll get this year to explore the world of the movie business here in Music City—it's a shame not to take advantage of this great opportunity.

*The Nashville Screenwriters Conference is open to the public with tickets available on nashscreen.com or by calling (877) NSC-2003. Watch out for more exciting details to come in the next issue of *Nashville Lifestyles*.*