

**MÉNAGE-À-TROIS:
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WRITER, DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER**

*Thursday April 14th, 2005
(6.30PM at Cantor Theater, 8th Street & University Place)*

In an industry that relies on this symbiotic relationship between writer, director & producer, young filmmakers must understand the process of bringing an idea to the screen. Based on their invaluable professional experience, our panel guests will share their views of the creative and business aspects of film script development and project packaging.

What are the steps of script development in the independent feature world?

At what stage does the Director come in? The Producer?

What does the involvement of actors and agents in script and production development today?

Is it advisable for a young screenwriter to demand to direct his or her own script?

Do you have experience with projects, which remained in development for years without reaching the screen?

How do you scout new talents?

GUEST SPEAKERS

Producer & Development Executive at IFC, Holly Becker:

Holly Becker is the executive producer for such films as: "Pieces O April", "This So Called Disaster - Sam Shepard directs the late Henry Moss", Miranda July's "Me And You And Everyone We Know" (*Note: Fusion Festival's special screening: Friday 15th at Cantor*), "American Gun"...etc.

Producer Eva Kolodner:

While working with Killer Films, Eva Kolodner produced the Academy Award-winning film "Boys Don't Cry" as well as such independent film classics as "Kids", "I Shot Andy Warhol", "Safe", "Kiss me" and "Happiness". In 1998, Kolodner took on the role of Director of Development at Killer Films where she was instrumental in expanding the company's sphere of operations. In 2000, Kolodner became Head of Production at Madstone Films, a unique digital production, distribution and exhibition company. In 2003, she founded Salty Features with producing partner Yael Melamede; they are currently in post-production of "Bam Bam And Celeste", written by and starring Margaret Cho.

Director Marry Harron:

Marry Harron began her filmmaking career creating documentaries for British television. She directed various short films for the BBC 2 art series "The Late Show"; she also co-produced a four-part series about American elections entitled "Campaign!" and made six short films about popular culture including "How to Make an Oliver Stone Movie". Ms Harron's directorships have included "Oz" (1997 TV series), and a series of "Homicide: Life on the Street" (1993 TV series). She wrote and directed 3 feature films "I Shot Andy Warhol" (1996), the highly

controversial and successful “American Psycho” (2000). She recently finished “The Notorious Bettie Page” (to be released in 2005).

Director Debra Granik:

Debra Granik worked as a documentary videographer before attending NYU’s graduate film program. Ms. Granik received multiple awards for her work including the Nestor Almendros Award for Cinematography (1997 and 2000) and production awards from Martin Scorsese and Warner Brothers. She completed “Side by Side”, her Graduate Thesis film and foray into digital filmmaking, for which she received a Wasserman Award. Her first feature is “Down To The Bone”, a script based on her award-winning short film “Snake Feed”, which was written and work-shopped at the Sundance Screen writing and Directors Labs. “Down To The Bone” won the Nantucket Film Festival's Screenplay competition June 2002.

Writers and Artists Agency Founder, Joan Scott

Joan Scott was one of the first women in a predominantly male industry of talent agency. She is responsible for starting careers of such talented actors as: Henry Winkler, James Wood, Harrison Ford, Elizabeth McGovern, Bill Macy, James Gandolfini... and also director Philip Noyce, or writer David Magee... and many others. She created The Writers and Artists Agency in 1970. Now in her 70s, she still works in New York City as a literary manager. Ms. Scott was part of the industry jury for Fusion Screenplay Competition this year.

The Discussion will be moderated by NYU Film Writing Professor, Paul Thompson

Paul Thompson was born in England, where he worked extensively as a writer, director, actor, teacher. As a writer, his work has been performed in England, as well as in Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Canada, the USA and Australia. He was resident dramatist with the Royal Shakespeare Company (1977) and with the The National Theatre (1977-79). He has also written for BBC Television, BBC Radio and feature films. He has directed at numerous theatres in England, Australia, and the United States.