



SEPTEMBER RECAP

We're coming into the home stretch of our year and we've barely scratched the surface of our potential! In fact, I am happy to report that we're entering the real season for Arkansas film festivals. So make sure to get out there and take a look around. You might have a film showing or you might be going to support a friend. Heck, you might be there just to see some amazing films! No matter the reason, get out to these festivals and remember how much your support means to your fellow filmmakers.

This month we also had the chance to talk about some of our more recent projects and who is working on what. So many amazing members are showing up to meetings with great news. They are finishing their first scripts, entering into competitions, and even producing! It just goes to show that each of us has an amazing amount of potential and that being part of the NWA Screenwriters Collective can be an amazing tool in your writer's toolbox.

-Lee



**Next Meeting
October 20th.
All are Welcome!**

CONGRATULATIONS!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS, ACHIEVEMENT,
AND NEW MILESTONES

FROM ALL OF US

Congratulations to all NWASC Members who have had some wonderful recent successes!

CJ MIRCH, WRITER/DIRECTOR "NORIKO"



Congratulations to CJ Mirch, longtime member, whose film, Noriko, was just named Best Short Film at the 2026 Berryville Film Festival. This is a huge achievement for this first-time filmmaker and we are so proud of his success.

Have a Recent Success?



Share it on
Instagram or
Facebook



Not connected to us on either platform? you're missing out! Follow us for amazing information!

TOGETHER WE CREATE

SOMETHING WRITTEN THIS WAY COMES

This is a follow up to last month's announcement of our first script swap event. For those of you unable to participate we will most assuredly be having another sooner than later.

The group met at the Graduate Hotel in Fayetteville for an evening of fun chat, libations, and an overwhelming urge to simply share their creations. Everyone had been matched up with someone else and had already read their scripts. This meant we could come to this event with clear opinions and the ability to have helpful and productive interactions. stay tuned for the next one!



Interested in our next swap?

Whether you're someone who has written before or someone who is looking for a reason to write your first short, the script swap is a great way to get the word out and get some non-judgemental feedback.

Reach out to Lee and get on the list!

CREATIVITY IS HARD WORK. BUT WE ALL HAVE THAT CREATIVE MUSCLE. IT'S JUST ABOUT LEARNING TO FLEX IT.

Please let us know if someone is not receiving this information and would like to be on the email list. Also, please let us know if you would like to be removed from this email list.



ARKANSAS CINEMA SOCIETY

FILMMAKER FORUMS

Did you attend?

This month, the NWA Screenwriters Collective had the honor of hosting the ACS Filmmaker Forum. The event, which occurs once a month, allows people from all parts of the film industry to learn more about the state of film in Arkansas. Zak Heald told us about how the community is pushing for new legislation that will make it easier to make films in the state and Brandon Goldsmith spoke about the upcoming Fort Smith Film Festival and how the music community is joining us in our fight to bring better opportunities to those attempting to bring film to Arkansas and for those living in the state who could use an extra hand.

Learn what you can do



ARKANSAS FILM FESTIVALS THIS YEAR

UPCOMING ARKANSAS FILM FESTIVALS



ALL GOOD. ALL FUN. ALL WORTH IT.



Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival

Oct. 9th-17th

Documentary Only



Fort Smith International Film Festival

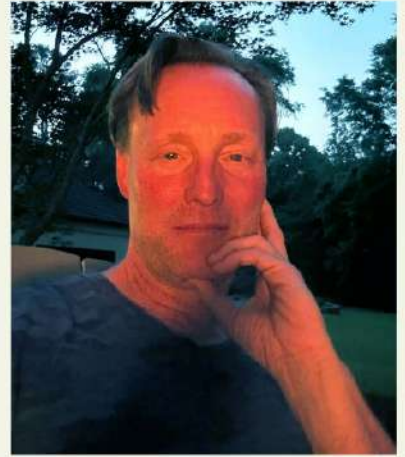
Nov. 5th -7th

Narrative features, documentaries, episodics

LEARN ABOUT THE NEW ACTOR'S LAB

Started by Richard Width and Mary Sue Price, the Actors Lab is a space for actors to explore and hone their craft. Here is a recap of their first meeting:

The Actor's Lab began with introductions, a conversation about the purpose and goals of their work together, and a warm-up for breath, body, and voice. They dove into the Elizabethan Neutral Scene, exploring how paraphrasing can deepen identification with text, open access to emotional range, and give actors more performance choices. After a fascinating detour into Shakespeare text tools, they turned their attention to three scripts: Mary Sue Price's Tenkiller Ferry, CJ Mirch's Merry Christmas Noriko, and Benny Madrid's A Love Letter to Dolly. They closed by circling up to reflect on where they were after their first evening together, and they're looking forward to continuing the work at the **next Lab on Monday, October 19.**



**Screenwriter/ Actor
Richard Width**

Want your script read? Reach out to Richard or Mary Sue.



NEWS TO USE

A few changes are coming behind the scenes for our amazing group.

- 1.) We will be changing our website to include more resources for our writers.
- 2.) We are temporarily putting membership dues on hold.

The NWA Screenwriters Collective meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 7 PM to 8:30 PM at THE MEDIUM, A Place to Create in downtown Springdale. We may have supplemental events in between, but until you hear differently, make sure to come to our meetings (because they're yours too)

PLEASE NOTE: Our meeting space is Classroom #1. There is a free parking lot adjacent to The Medium. Please enter through the main entrance, and Classroom #1 is down the hall to the left. Bathrooms are in the lobby to your right. No alcohol, tobacco, or drugs are permitted. Please feel free to bring your own food and drink. Weekdays are busy, and if you need to eat your dinner during our meetings, no worries! Potlucks are also permissible.

SHELLY GRINNELL
MAULDIN

Whatcha Workin On? Where Ya Workin?

After co-writing a feature, then writing one independently, I decided to “test drive the car” with a short film until all of the feature film businessie stuff was hammered out. I am currently editing a short doc, and have co-written another short called “The Professiona” that we will begin shooting as soon as the doc editing is finished.

I write at home at my dining room table. I can spread out my discombobulated paper notes while writing on my computer. It has to be “no background noise” quiet for me to concentrate! I would love to be one of those people aggressively working on a project in a fun coffee shop, but I would get absolutely nothing accomplished!!



A NOTE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

NWASC 2026



Lee LaMarche

President and cookie fanatic

Hi everyone,

We are so proud to have all of you as part of our amazing writing group. Going forward, we want to open the door to more event ideas that people might be interested in. Are you interested in hosting something? Are you interested in getting people together for a movie night? What about a weekend of writing at a writer's retreat? There are so many things we can do but we want to hear from YOU. So shoot me a message of instagram or facebook and tell me what you'd like to get out of the group that you might not be getting at the moment.

-Lee