



HOW TO WIN A FILM FESTIVAL

SPEED FILMMAKING SECRETS REVEALED!

by

Wes and Amanda Llewellyn



A WINNING STYLE

- ❖ If you want to win a film festival, FIND OUT WHAT WON BEFORE!
- ❖ WATCH PREVIOUS WINNERS to know the style of the festival and what they like.
- ❖ MAKE A LIST AND TAILOR YOUR PROJECT TO THOSE THINGS THAT WIN!



GATHER TOGETHER

- ❖ GATHER your resources and pre-produce as much as possible.
- ❖ Your resources are: TALENT, ACTORS, CREW, LOCATIONS and other material support including food and specialty items and props.
- ❖ Once you have gathered as much as you can, WRITE A LIST of what is the most visually appealing and that which gives you the most “bang for your buck.”



THE WRITE WAY

❖ WRITE TO YOUR RESOURCES!

❖ Your collection of resources makes your project unique and it will stand out if you use your resources well.

❖ If you have “creative” parameters, like a THEME or a BIBLE VERSE, your resource gathering should only reinforce this when you write.

THE WRITE WAY

- ❖ END WITH A BEGINNING!
- ❖ Especially in short films where you do not have the luxury of time to tell a complex story, it is important for the audience to CONTINUE THE STORY in their imaginations after your film is completed.
- ❖ Some of the BEST FILMS in the world follow this example; “Casablanca,” “Gone With a Wind,” “Shawshank Redemption,” “Star Wars,” “Harry Potter,” and most horror films.

A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text. The border is white and set against a dark background.

THE TALENTS

- ❖ Mathew 25:14-30.
- ❖ DON'T BURY YOUR TALENTS in the ground and expect to dig them up the week you need them.
- ❖ You need to be SHARP! REALLY SHARP!
- ❖ Invest your time in growing and cultivating your talents, learning your craft and becoming excellent through PRACTICE!

A decorative scrollwork border in white on a black background, framing the central text. The border features intricate floral and vine patterns, with a central crest-like element at the top and bottom.

COMPROMISE & COLLABORATION

- ❖ They are TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN
- ❖ They seem very similar but once you examine them they are not.
- ❖ COMPROMISE is not necessarily good for anybody but
- ❖ COLLABORATION is good for everyone.
- ❖ In order for collaboration to work, EGOS HAVE TO DIE.



COMPROMISE & COLLABORATION

- ❖ YOU WILL HAVE TO COMPROMISE at some point but IF YOU HAVE COLLABORATION, you can mitigate the problems and fall-out of having to compromise.
- ❖ Compromise makes no one happy but COLLABORATION BUILDS ONE IDEA ON TOP OF THE OTHER until solutions are implemented.
- ❖ Collaboration is usually faster. Compromise is almost always in negotiation.



FOLLOWING ALONG...

- ❖ ALWAYS FOLLOW THE RULES.
- ❖ If you don't, you are NOT being clever...
- ❖ You are just CHEATING! Be honest...always.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

- ❖ There is no such thing as an AUTEUR.
- ❖ FILM IS COMPLETELY COLLABORATIVE. It needs a strong captain but everyone on the ship has some job that they must do. They are all going to arrive at port at the same time but each has a unique calling to fulfill to get the ship there.
- ❖ PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS YOUR FIRST CONCERN. It is the only time when the film project doesn't take precedence.

A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text. The border is white and set against a dark background. The top and bottom edges feature large, symmetrical flourishes, while the sides have smaller, repeating motifs.

SERVANT LEADER

- ❖ The best leadership example is the MINISTRY OF JESUS when he washed the disciples' feet.
- ❖ IF YOU FAIL TO LEAD, YOU FAIL THE PROJECT.
- ❖ IF YOU FAIL TO SERVE YOU FAIL YOUR CREW AND ACTORS.
- ❖ Head, heart, hands...



GOD IS IN CHARGE

❖ Always leave room for GOD TO DO HIS JOB and...
PERFORM MIRACLES.

The biggest blessings on a shoot are when things go horribly wrong...something doesn't happen or show up or gets cancelled and somehow, when you surrender control of your project to God, He will bless you. He never fails and He will make you look a lot more talented than you are.