



Greater Erie Arts Rental

An outreach service of Penn State Behrend

**The Greater Erie Film Office and the Greater Erie Arts Rental at Penn State Behrend announce a screenplay competition.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**—January 1, 2017—The Greater Erie Film Office, a program of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania (FSNWPA), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is proud to announce its third annual short screenwriting and filmmaking competition, in partnership with the Greater Erie Arts Rental at Penn State Behrend. The competition will be open to all screenwriters and filmmakers residing in the state of Pennsylvania. This year's screenwriting and filmmaking competition is themed revenge.

Revenge can be defined as the act of exacting punishment for a wrongdoing, especially in a resentful or vindictive spirit. It may not be the most ethical response but there is no denying its seductive portrayal in fiction and storytelling. We've seen this topic explored in classics as far back as Homer and Hamlet and as contemporary as Don Corleone. The idea of revenge is no doubt delectable, the very phrase "just desserts" promises a treat. The actual execution of revenge however, carries a bitter cost of time, emotional and physical energy, and even lives. At what point does the gratification of the act diminish the justice, if any, of the action?

Stewart Nash, Film Commissioner for the Greater Erie Film Office, said, "We're thrilled to continue our competition into its third year and continue our partnership with GEAR. The competition has potential for captivating, original stories from talented screenwriters. While all genres are encouraged, and with revenge being a classic trope for emotionally driven characters, the possibilities are truly endless and we challenge entrants to surprise us. We've purposefully kept the contest's themes general in order to encourage creativity."

The Greater Erie Film Office Screenwriting Competition is the first part of an annual two-contest combo. The Short Film Competition will be announced officially at the end of April 2017.

**SCREENPLAY COMPETITION SUBMISSION FORMAT AND RULES**

**Deadlines:** There are three deadlines for 2016:

Early Deadline: March 15, 11:59pm PT (\$20 entry fee)

Regular Deadline: March 31, 11:59pm PT (\$30 entry fee)

Late Deadline: April 9th, 11:59pm PT (\$40 entry fee)

**Qualifications:** Open to amateurs only: Screenwriters who have not earned more than \$25,000 writing fictional work for film or television. Entry scripts must be the original work of one writer, or of two writers who collaborated equally, and must be written originally in English. Adaptations and translated scripts are not eligible.

- One entry per applicant(s)
- All genres are accepted. Highly original material is a must.
- Screenplays must be submitted in English.
- Length (not including title page): Max 25 pages.
- Screenplays must be properly formatted, adhering to screenplay industry standards.
- Digital submissions in PDF format only to info@filmerie.com. Subject must state "Screenplay Competition [Your Name]". Body of message must list entrants first and last name, phone number, email address, and title of script.
- Please include ONLY the title on the submitted manuscript to prevent reader bias.
- Rewritten/corrected pages WILL NOT be accepted once the entry has been received.

#### **SCREENPLAY COMPETITION RESTRICTIONS**

- No entry fee refunds.
- Script must not have been previously optioned, purchased, currently in production or previously produced.
- Scripts written as adaptations of other works must have secured rights before being submitted.
- Film Society of NWPA and Greater Erie Film Office board and committee members and Greater Erie Arts Rental at Penn State Behrend, and Penn State employees are ineligible to participate in this contest.

#### **SCREENPLAY COMPETITION PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover credit and debit cards accepted for submission payment through PayPal at FilmErie.com.
- Please DO NOT send cash or checks.

#### **SCREENPLAY COMPETITION PRIZES**

Notifications will be sent to finalists via email by the third week of April 2017. The winner will be announced on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:00 p.m. at FILM at the Erie Art Museum. **First Place:**

- \$500 (USD) Cash Prize.
- Winning script will be used by all entrants in the Short Film Contest where the Top 3 films will be screened at a November 2017 event.
- Presentation as winner during live screening event – FILM at the Erie Art Museum
- Recognition in the Erie Reader

#### **Top 3 Finalists:**

- Recognition on the website and through a press release.
- Invitation for you and a guest to live screening event – FILM at the Erie Art Museum.
- Judging notes from each judge.

#### **SCREENPLAY COMPETITION CONTACT**

Greater Erie Film Office  
 Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania  
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