

SCREENWRITING ROOTED IN
DECOLONIZATION AND ABSTRACT THINKING

Sundance Collab

IN SOLIDARITY

We acknowledge that this workshop is hosted on the ancestral and unceded Yelamu and Ramaytush Territories, the homeland of the Ramaytush-Yelamu Ohlone, the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. We honor their enduring connection to this land and recognize their ongoing contributions to our community. We stand with the band of Ohlone nations and all native people across the world who are fighting to restore land, family, and liberation from colonial rule. We commit to respecting and protecting the land while standing in solidarity with the Ramaytush Ohlone people.

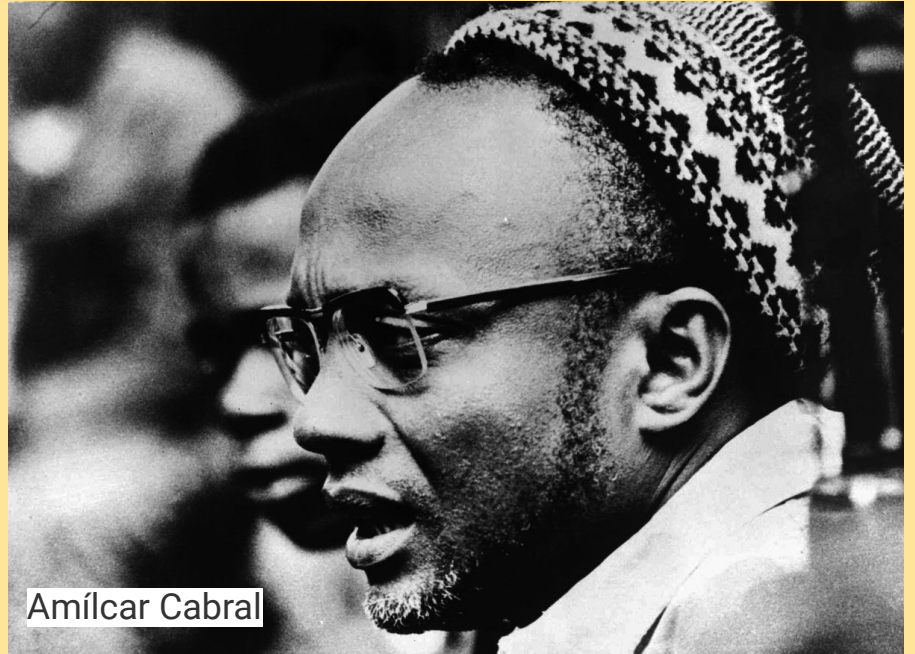


Red Wing (Lillian St. Cyr), First Native Star in Hollywood Feature [Wiki](#)

Use [Native-land.ca](https://native-land.ca) to find the land that your live on.

Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.

- [Amílcar Cabral](#)



SCREENWRITING ROOTED IN DECOLONIZATION AND ABSTRACT THINKING

FAILURE

Om Screenwriting

What is screenwriting?

The practice, art, and craft of writing for the cinema screen.

What is Cinema rooted in Decolonization?

The practice of unlearning traditional frameworks of cinema education centered in colonial, capitalistic, and individualism ideology. Learning cinema rooted in multiple pathways – origin, migration, collectivism and reflective modes of humanity. Cinema that understands that “the political is rooted in the personal.” ([Carol Hanisch](#))

What is Cinema rooted in Abstract Thinking?

The practice of unlearning linear structure, binary thinking, traditional techniques, grammar and learning the moving image through your own lens. Expanding the frame, ourselves and audiences beyond what is known about cinema. Extending our capacity for understanding complex forms and rooting cinema in the interconnected.

What is a screenwriter?

- Any person who writes for the moving image.
- Any person who frames a story for “screen.”
- The radical writer standing in a sea of contradiction
- The observer synthesizing time/space into a story form for the screen.
- A writer embracing personal transformation
- A writer committed to liberation
- Self-critical, collective-critical
- A person of scholarship
- Concerned with the truth



Paulo Coelho Quotes
@PauloCoelho_DQ

"The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times."

| Paulo Coelho

Om Cinema, Abstract Thinking & Deconstruction

If cinema is not invented yet then the question is what experiments should we be doing to actualize cinema? The primacy of the image is both historically and technically accidental.

The nostalgia that some still feel for the silent screen does not go far enough back into the childhood of the seventh art. The real primitives of the cinema, existing only in the imaginations of a few [men] of the nineteenth century, are in complete imitation of nature. Every new development added to the cinema must, paradoxically, take it nearer and nearer to its origins. In short, cinema has not yet been invented!

- [What is Cinema? - Andre Bazin](#) pg. 31

In short, cinema
has not yet been
invented!

- Andre Bazin



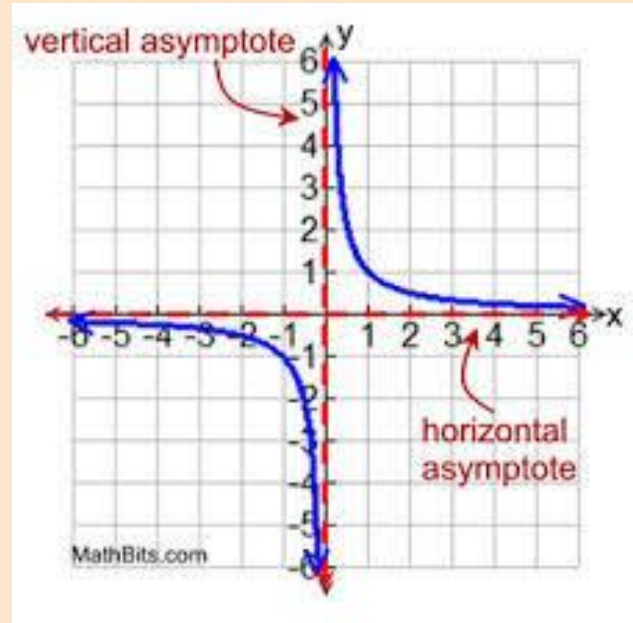
Andra Bazin

SCREENWRITING ROOTED IN DECOLONIZATION AND ABSTRACT THINKING

PERFECTIONISM

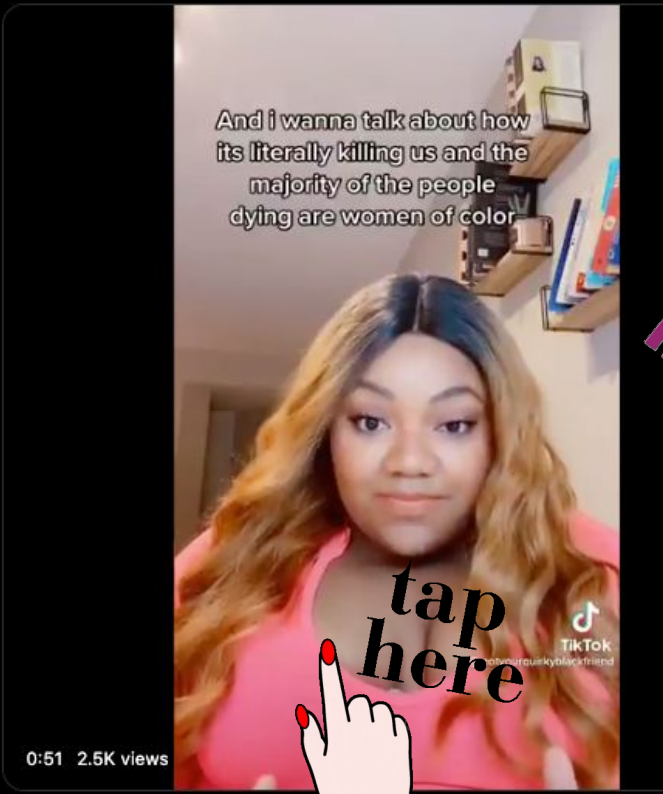
Our tendency to make writing complicated

- ★ Gimmicks
- ★ Tricks
- ★ Cliches
- ★ Plot as the golden key
- ★ Turns and twists
- ★ Relying on the camera (camera direction)
- ★ Perfectionism
- ★ Latch Key Kid Dialogue
- ★ Following the Cult of Genre
- ★ Genre conventions
- ★ Africa is not a country (research)
- ★ [Tropes / Stereotypes / Mythologies](#)



tony montana7 ❤️ 🇺🇸 🗨️
@Omgitstamz

Time poverty. WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THIS



Sven 🇺🇸 🇯🇵 🇮🇹 🇸🇪
@DrAlbedo17
This is the reason why I hate Hollywood Way of representation. They create stereotyped far from the reality ri sell a certain image of minority. Like the Indian doctor and his accent, the black and funny man, the fashionista type of gay, when many of them are virile.. rubbish!!!



ratty tooney 🇺🇸 @cmradec0re · 16h
they really said "no guatemalans, just vibes" 🤔 ✨



We are socialists because we believe that work must be organized for the collective benefit of those who do the work and create the products, and not for the profit of the bosses. Material resources must be equally distributed among those who create these resources. – [Combahee River Collective](#)

Combahee River Collective



Clarissa Pinkola Estés

Estés is a Jungian psychoanalyst, author, poet, post trauma recovery specialist who has practiced for over 48 years. She is Mestiza Latina [Native American/Mexican/Spanish]. Upon receiving her Ph.D she published *Women Who Run with Wolves: Myths and Stories of the Wild Women Archetype*. The origin myth stories in the book were given to her from her family and other people she met along her travels. She is controversial for proposing that both assimilation and holding to ethnic traditions are the ways to contribute to a creative culture and to a soul-based civility.

[Read More](#)

Book: [Women Who Run with Wolves](#)

Excerpt: [Woman Archetype](#)



Julie Dash

Dash is an American film director, writer and producer. Dash received her MFA in 1985 at the UCLA Film School and is one of the graduates and filmmakers known as the L.A. Rebellion. After she had written and directed several shorts, her 1991 feature *Daughters of the Dust* became the first full-length film directed by an African-American woman to obtain general theatrical release in the United States.

Daughters of the Dust is a fictionalized telling of her father's Gullah family who lived off the coast of the Southeastern United States. [Read More](#)

Book: *Daughters of the Dust: The Making of an African American Woman's Film*

Excerpt: [Daughters of the Dust \(Script\)](#)

Link: [Julie Dash](#)



SCRIPT TALK

[to be continued...]



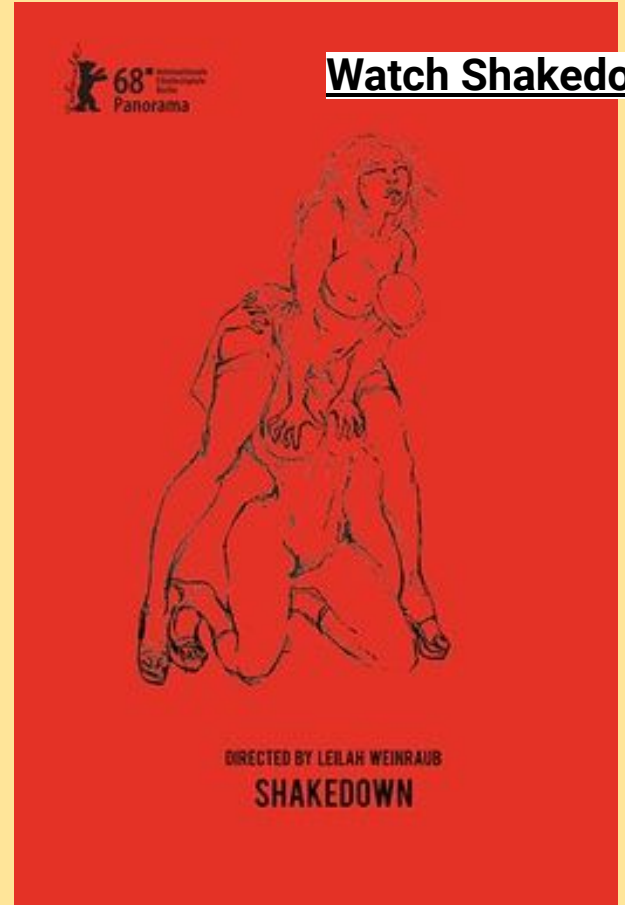
[Screenwriting Syllabus](#)
[Screenwriting Reference Sheet](#)
[DISCORD Online Community](#)
[101 Essential Black Films_2nd Edition](#)

HMK:

Write.

- Free write
- Begin a writer's manifesto.
Write values that guide your writing practice.

Read [Groundhog Day](#)



Screenwriting RDA Application

Screenwriting Rooted in Decolonization and Abstract Thinking

is a meditation on screenwriting. In the class, we develop an individual praxis to approach screenwriting as a tool to deconstruct status quo, traditional and colonized ideas of story, character, structure, practice, and process.

GOALS

- Master writing for the moving image centering self/native/origin stories
- Master script analysis and story analysis
- Understand critique - giving and receiving notes/feedback
- Complete a logline, treatment, summary or short script
- Analyzing and understanding harm in the moving image

**CLASS DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF
SEPTEMBER 2024
THE CLASS IS LIMITED.**

Applicants will be divided into available times and groups. There will be an in person offer and a virtual offer. You will receive a registration and payment link with the Fall 2024 Syllabus.



M

M is a visual storyteller working in cinema, writing, photography, and public art. She utilizes a fictional and documentary narrative hybrid approach grappling with stories of memory. Wired magazine called M a "filmmaker provocateur." PALM TREES DOWN 3rd ST. won the Adrienne Shelly Award, and it was called "a masterpiece" by Film Threat. 2017. The award-winning sci-fi film, MOONLESS, was reviewed by Stigmat/Videofocus13. Her feature debut ELEPHANT, was awarded the Departures Best Feature Award by Indie Memphis and has screened at over 15+ film festivals around the world.. Obsidian Theater Festival staged her play A METAPHOR IN 3 ACTS in 2020. Published scripts, poetry, plays, and fiction can be read in Forum Magazine and Obsidian Literature Journal.



Photo: Maria 2019 , Mission, San Francisco



Photo: Maria 2021 , Mission, San Francisco

As an educator, she sits on the board of School of the Alternative, offering affordable non-hierarchical arts education. Classes on film studies are also taught in open virtual and public spaces to advance discussions on the future of Black cinema. The curriculum includes: Screenwriting Rooted In Decolonization And Abstract Thinking, The Principles Of Good Story, Black Film As Protest, And The 101 Essential Black Films are taught in open virtual and public space to advance discussions on the future of oppressed peoples cinema.

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[@mariaajudice](https://twitter.com/mariaajudice) | ko-fi.com/mariaajudice | mariaajudice@gmail.com | elephantbym.com | Sundance Collab 24

Thank you for your time.

I wish you the highest vibration as you develop your screenplay writing process.



Photo: Maria 2023 , Mission, San Francisco