

The **August 2025 Sundance Collab Script Club** honors David Lynch by revisiting his surrealist neo-noir *Mulholland Drive*. Voted #2 on *The New York Times* Best Films of the 21st Century, the film earned Lynch a nomination for Best Director at the Academy Awards and the Best Director award at Cannes. The screenplay, which was nominated for a Golden Globe, continues to fascinate and confound audiences more than 20 years after its release.

Please read the [script](#), see the [trailer](#), and watch the [film](#) (available to [rent on YouTube](#))

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## Event Program:

- **Special Guest** | A discussion with **Karyn Kusama** (*Girlfight*, *Destroyer*, *Yellowjackets*), a longtime admirer of Lynch who contributed to the 2022 documentary *Lynch/Oz*, an anthology documentary about how the *The Wizard of Oz* influenced Lynch's work. Together, we'll unpack the layers of Lynch's dream logic, elliptical storytelling, and what *Mulholland Drive* can teach us about writing the unexpected.
  - **Script Club** | Meet and spark conversations with screenwriters, filmmakers, and cinephiles from across the world. During this fun, interactive session, watch clips from *Mulholland Drive*, then discuss the film and script with the help of Sundance Collab staff and community leaders.
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## Script Notes:

Did you discover anything unique about this script? Yes, it was originally written as a pilot! After his proposed television series wasn't picked up by ABC, Lynch developed the script into a feature, adding on layers of symbolism and several new scenes.

As you read, consider how episodic writing differs from feature writing. Note the key differences in story: The addition of the Diane/Camilla narrative, the Winkie's dream scene, expanded character development for supporting roles, and the ending.

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## Screenplay and Film Discussion Questions:

### CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS:

- What is your assessment of Rita and Betty before they meet?
- How does Lynch introduce them and what is your impression?
- What does their interaction tell you about the rules of this world?

## THE DREAM:

- What is the tone and world presented in the first section of this film?
- What about the secondary characters? There are iconic scenes with an older couple, a cowboy, director, hitman, mafia producer brothers, and a monster living behind Winkie's. – How do these characters move the story forward? What do they represent?
- Do you think Mulholland Drive is a comment on Hollywood movie-making? What tropes and symbolism are presented in these early scenes?
- The script you read was originally a TV pilot that was later reworked into Lynch's celebrated feature film. What is your interpretation of the script, how does it reflect episodic writing? How did he elaborate his characters and themes within the film?
- What do you think is happening to our protagonist at the midpoint when Betty has her audition, interacts with the director Adam during auditions, and then joins Rita to investigate who Diane Selwyn is? What is Lynch trying to communicate?

## CLIMAX + REVEAL:

- What is your interpretation of Club Silencio, why is it here that the box is revealed?
- What is Lynch telling the audience about identity? Why are Rita and Betty dressed alike? Why does Betty suddenly disappear when Rita goes to open the box? How is Diane portrayed in this new reality?
- What are your thoughts about the visual storytelling and symbolism presented in this sequence?

## THE NIGHTMARE:

- How do Betty, Rita, Camilla, and Diane function as fractured identities of the same psychological space?
- Does the ending suggest a closed loop of guilt and fantasy, or is Diane's death a final escape?
- In what ways does the ending act as commentary of the film industry and its impact on personal identity? What do you think the supporting characters represent?
- What are your thoughts about the ending? Did you experience the finale as tragedy, horror, or something else entirely? Why or why not?
- Why does Lynch end with the whisper "Silencio" on an empty stage? What emotional or thematic resonance does this closing image leave with the audience?

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Please see the [#scriptclub](#) channel on the [Sundance Collab Discord](#) for continued discussion. This community forum is a great place to connect with fellow filmmakers.

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## Recommended Resources for *Mulholland Drive*:

- Article: [David Lynch's 10 Clues to Unlocking Mulholland Drive](#)
  - Article: [Scene Analysis: Crafting Doom through Uncertainty](#)
  - Article: [Mulholland Drive Explained | Let's Go To Club Silencio](#)
  - Article: [The Meaning Behind David Lynch's Mulholland Drive](#)
  - Video: [The Terrible Secret of Mulholland Drive](#)
  - Video: [Mulholland Drive \(2001\) | Behind The Scenes of David Lynch Movie](#)
  - Video: [David Lynch and Naomi Watts on Mulholland Drive](#)
  - Video: [This Advice From David Lynch Helped Me Write My First Screenplay](#)
  - Video: [10 Screenwriting Tips from David Lynch](#)
  - Video: [David Lynch on Where Great Ideas Come From](#)
  - Video: [David Lynch Directing Style Explained — How Does Lynch Make Us Dream?](#)
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## Related Sundance Collab Resources and Courses:

- [Screenwriting Course: Core Elements](#)
  - [Screenwriting Course: From Outline to First Draft of Your Screenplay](#)
  - [Crafting Your Short Screenplay](#)
  - [Directing: Core Elements](#)
  - [Master Class: Finding Your Screenplay's Story with David Schwab, Mira Nair, Tamara Jenkins and Destin Daniel Cretton](#)
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## Sundance Collab Summer 2025 Community Challenge

**Create a mood board for a story that is inspired by the works of celebrated filmmaker David Lynch.** Your story can be for a feature film, short film, or television series.

The mood board should be a single image that showcases visceral, visual storytelling. Steps:

1. Create a mood board (in Canva, Google Slides, PowerPoint, Keynote, or another image-maker/slide-designer of your choice);
2. Download or screenshot the mood board as one image in the formats of PNG or JPG;
3. Post the image to the #challenges channel on the [Sundance Collab Community Discord](#) with a title and a single sentence story description (or logline).

Limit three (3) entries per person. Community feedback and improvement are encouraged; entries can be edited before the **September 22, 2025 deadline**. All entries must comply with our Community Guidelines.

Two prizes will be given: (1) Best mood board as selected by Sundance Collab community leaders and staff; and (2) best feedback given to the person who meaningfully contributes to the improvement of others' work through constructive comments on Discord.

See these resources to help you create your Lynchian-inspired mood board:

- [\*\*What Does Lynchian Mean — David Lynch's Cinematic Style\*\*](#)
- [\*\*The Artists That Inspire David Lynch's Unique Visual Style\*\*](#)
- [\*\*How to Make a Film Mood Board — Setting, Colors & Characters\*\*](#)
- [\*\*The Definitive Guide to Creating a Film and TV Mood Board\*\*](#)
- [\*\*David Lynch Filmography IMDb\*\*](#)