

## **Act One: Writing For Hollywood**

*by Carmen Leal ©*

If you've been a subscriber for a while, you probably know I'm writing a screenplay. With all my publishing credits in non-fiction, this is a major change. I am having an absolute blast!

I'd like to devote this My Opinion space to a program I've talked about before. [Act One: Writing for Hollywood](#) is a month-long, writing intensive program, sponsored by Inter-Mission. The purpose of Act One is to prepare Christian screenwriters who are interested in more than just the next big sell -- writers committed to a Christian world-view who have the talent and professional skills to translate this spirit to the screen.

I realize this is not a program for everyone. Not every writer is a Christian, and not every writer writes fiction, or has a desire to write a screenplay. Think publishing is a tough road to follow? It is, regardless of the genre, but screenwriting is in a class of its own. I am fully convinced that writers who become a part of Act One are better positioned for success than other screenwriters. In addition to the 30 day program in New York and Hollywood, Act One offers book-to-screen weekend retreats in Malibu. I was privileged to attend one in November, and I can honestly say, it changed my entire view of why and how I write. I learned more that weekend than at every writers' conference I have ever attended.

Registration is limited to ten writers per weekend for these book-to-screen adaptation seminars. April 27-29, 2001 and October 12-14, 2001 are the next opportunities to take advantage of this program.

If you are a published Christian novelist (who already grasp character development, dialogue and theme) be prepared to take your writing to the next level.

## **Topics include:**

3 Act Structure: How to fit a 300+ page novel into a 120 pg script? What should I leave out versus what I need to add to the story?

Adapting to the Visual Screen: Movies Move! Compare the art forms of novel writing and script writing. What can film do that the novel cannot (and vice versa)? How to transfer words on a page to a visual arena.

Industry Standard Formatting: How should a page of a screenplay look? What special jargon will I need to learn to make my screenplay work? What is the job of the screenwriter versus the director, production designers, actors, or cinematographers?

Learning -- The Business: Discuss the Hollywood scene. What's in, what's out? Once your script is in screenplay format, what next? Learn the lingo of pitching and production.

For more information visit the [Act One: Writing for Hollywood Adaptation Retreat page.](#)