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New Writer's Workshop Sessions Offered by Film Producer Cari-Esta Albert

Veteran movie producer and studio executive Cari-Esta Albert is presenting a Writer's Workshop in Carmel beginning Jan. 8. The eight evening sessions will be held Tuesdays through Feb. 26 at Il Fornaio's Ocean Avenue Room from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The fee is \$300 with reservations taken at 310-488-5080 or by email at cea@noonattack.com. Albert is offering a discounted rate of \$275 to Reel Friends of the Film Commission members.

Albert was the producer of films including "The Truth About Cats and Dogs," executive producer of "Heart and Souls," and "Love Is Strange." As an executive at Geffen Pictures, Universal Pictures, Alphaville, and USA Network, she worked on the development and production of pictures including "Defending Your Life," "Interview With The Vampire," "Gorillas In The Mist," "The Last Boy Scout," "Executive Decision," "The Mummy," "Parenthood" and "Men Don't Leave".

Her workshops will include information on completing treatments, screenplays, re-writes, TV pilots, and novels. Pages are submitted and read prior to class for in-class discussion with an emphasis on suggestions for the next step in the writing process. Sessions will include analysis of elements including characters, dialogue, plot, tone, genre, cinematic elements (with an emphasis on issues specific to each writer's project).

"Writers will leave each meeting with concrete ideas to take them to the next step," Albert said. "Weekly writing assignments will set goals to keep them on track by road-mapping the steps to complete the work by the end of the workshop."

Weekly discussions and exercises cover topics such as:

- Internal/external conflict (how to create more conflict in each act)
- Tracking and revising character and plot conflict
- How to rethink dialogue to reveal character arc; create roles actors want to play
- A picture's worth a thousand words--the visual exploration of character and plot.
- Overcoming writer's block and finding continued inspiration by "thinking out of the box"
- Verbal pitches of logline and theme
- Streamlining dialogue
- Brainstorm character development to create roles that actors want to play;
- Re-writing and improving the *inciting incident*, Act 1 break, Mid-point scene, 2nd act break and 3rd act climax.
- Genre issues and salability via analysis of the current marketplace. How to focus story to attract financing.

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