

Introduction to Being A Screenwriter 2



START

1

2

3

4

Welcome to *Being A Screenwriter 2*, an activity-filled course that helps you get ready to point your video camera and succeed!

Now that you've completed the basics of screenwriting in *Being A Screenwriter, Part 1, Part 2* is here to light the way for you to professionally prepare your script, refine your plot, and load your screenplay with crackling dialogue, fast-paced action, and heart-tugging emotion.

In this course, the focus is on you and your ideas. Rev up your pencil and open your activity book as you immerse yourself in a quick review of the lessons covered in *Part 1*. Next, forge ahead into planning your screenplay, outlining scenes, and sorting through the instructions you might provide for directors and actors.

No screenplay can succeed without fully realized characters and dialogue that zings and sparkles. Use the dialogue lessons to hang flesh on your villains, heroes and romantic leads as you punch up those wisecracks, soften those sighs, and perfect those ghoulish screams. You'll even spend time looking for those "signature" dialogue phrases from movies of the past.

But wait—there's more! Gather your fellow screenwriters around in a studio setting and take your script through a trial run in a table reading exercise. With feedback from your peers, you'll quickly be able to identify where your script works best, and where to tweak the weak spots.

Using clips from the very funny movie *Groundhog Day*, your whole class gains insight into movie making techniques, as it once again assumes the role of audience and critic. In this setting, you'll get experience in identifying camera angles, and come to understand such technical terms as cut, fade and dissolve. Finally, you'll learn how to integrate these cutting-edge techniques into your own screenplay.

Action writing gets special attention in one set of super-fun activities. Are your characters ready to soar into space, swing from vines, or hack their way through a dark and snake-infested rainforest? Writing action requires especially tough writing chops—cut your teeth in this powerful set of exercises that reminds you that what people do is often more important than anything they say!

If you're serious about building your skills in screenwriting, *Being A Screenwriter 2* is the right course for you. The future promises a multitude of careers for motivated and talented young people who bring not only the wildly popular technical skills,—but, most critically—a firm grasp of the fundamentals of fine screenwriting technique.

Are you eager to get started? All right, everyone. Grab your pens and journals. Quiet on the set! Imagination ready? ACTION!