



HOLLYWOOD GATEKEEPERS

a step-by-step guide to becoming a reader in Hollywood



Do you love movies?

Do you like to read?

Would you like to read screenplays?


Yes, there is actually a way for you to become an integral part of Hollywood without renting a giant moving van. You can actually become a Hollywood Gatekeeper – a critical decision-maker whose opinion influences whether or not films are made.

Screenreader? What the heck is that?

Way back in the old days (We're talkin' waaaay back!), studios hired a small army of people known as "readers" to read the mountain of scripts that came through their doors on a weekly basis. There would be entire wings of these readers who read the scripts and then write a summary report with an opinion of either RECOMMEND, CONSIDER or PASS.

Those that scored a PASS were tossed in garbage (in the pre-recycle days) while CONSIDER and RECOMMEND scripts were looked at further up the hierarchy. In effect, a green twenty-something could get a deal killed from an A-list writer at a major studio before anyone else even looks at it! Now that's a Gatekeeper!

Fascinating But what does that have to do with me?



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Today, script reading is done online.
The Independent film industry has grown.
Studios are not the only avenue for readers.

Readers used to be required to pick up a pile of scripts at the studio/agency/production company on a weekly basis. They would be given a deadline for their coverage reports and would be paid for their work after receipt of these printed reports.

*No kidding?
Tell me more!*

Readers (who we refer to as “Screenreaders”) still play a crucial role. But as studios have decentralized and Indie producers have multiplied, Hollywood has increasingly relied on independent contractor readers who are assigned work on a per script basis. They no longer necessarily work on the second floor of the East building of Paramount Studios.


This work flow has changed thanks to the Internet. Only rarely do writers submit printed scripts (three-hole punched, two 1¼ inch brass brads, 95-125 pages in length) for consideration. Today, scripts are usually submitted via email as .pdf files. And coverage reports are submitted, you guessed it, via email as .pdf files.



Saves trees! Saves gas!




Cuts down on road rage on the Santa Monica freeway!



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“What if I
don’t live
in L.A.?”

The Internet doesn’t care where you live. And nowadays, neither do a lot of filmmakers. Being able to trust your work is key. Oh you might want to coordinate your annual Disneyland trip with a California meeting (perhaps even tax-deductible), but then again, the filmmaker might not even care. Email, FaceTime and webinars have made in-person meetings not nearly as important as they once were

Once you’re in as a reader, the odds of getting your own script read by an A-list insider increases dramatically. It takes effort for sure. And a little moxie. But it is definitely possible for those determined to make it happen.

“What if I
have a
screenplay?”

“How do I
become a
Screenreader?”

You have already taken the first step!



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Next steps to becoming a Screenreader....

- ✓ Stay on the mailing list to receive articles, tips and tricks about being a reader
- ✓ Visit the Hollywood Gatekeepers Facebook Page for more info
- ✓ Join the Hollywood Gatekeepers Facebook Group for a deeper dive into the world of reading scripts

There are many paths to becoming a professional Screenreader. You can:

- ✓ Go to film school.
- ✓ Volunteer to read for a local film festival's screenplay competition.
- ✓ Join screenwriting groups and offer to read for free.

or

***Take the Hollywood Gatekeepers
Screenreader Course***



**Free Workshop
Coming soon!**





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IN THE WORKSHOP WE WILL COVER WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A HOLLYWOOD SCREENREADER INCLUDING:

- ✓ Script analysis
- ✓ Practical reasons to become a Screenreader
- ✓ Fun reasons to become a Screenreader
- ✓ Who shouldn't become a Screenreader
- ✓ Coverage samples
- ✓ What types of jobs are available for readers
- ✓ A reader's compensation
- ✓ Career paths for story consultants
- ✓ You will end the workshop with three free gifts!

If you make it a priority, you really can become a Hollywood Gatekeeper in far flung towns across America. It's a matter of learning your craft. And it's all up to you!

