

Film Techniques for Writers A Four-Session Course

Presented by Sally Kaplan
BACKCOUNTRY PICTURES INC

Thursdays, 6–8 pm

February 16, 23 and March 2 and 9

The art of storytelling has a lot to learn from the craft of filmmaking and screenwriting. Rich three-dimensional characters, breaking the work into scenes, the use of strong visuals, the importance of conflict and building suspense, unapologetic editing — all go into a winning film story, which begins after all, on the written page. Open to all levels of writers, this class will explore and build upon these techniques to inspire and improve your writing.

Instruction, discussion, and assignments will help you:

- Create compelling characters from back-story to ongoing “need”
- Discover the best place to start and end a chapter
- Utilize visuals
- Build plot, maintain tension and develop suspense so your reader keeps turning the page

Samples from films and books will help illustrate these techniques. You can bring in your own material or write in class. In workshop style, we will cut, slash, enhance and propel your story.

Reserve your spot by February 1 with a \$50 deposit toward the \$200 total fee.

Register at manzapress.com or call 209-728-6171



Sally Kaplan moved from Los Angeles to Calaveras County in 2010. She and her husband, David Vassar, own Backcountry Pictures, a production company in Murphys. In addition to working in non-fiction film and television, Kaplan has written and/or directed prize-winning original screenplays. Her script *Crossroads* developed into a short film at the American Film Institute’s Directing Workshop for Women. Her short film, *Dybbuks and Chicken Soup* was screened in numerous film festivals, and her screen play, *Man on the Plane*, received accolades from screenwriting contests.

Her prose appears in the anthologies *Changing Course: Women’s Inspiring Stories of Menopause, Midlife, and Moving Forward*, and *Wine, Cheese & Chocolate*, published by Manzanita Press. With a degree in dance and creative writing from Hampshire College, Kaplan has taught courses at NYU, UCLA, Naropa Institute, and University of Colorado.

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