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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“SVFF Screenwriters Lab and High Scribe Competition Offers Unique Opportunity for Aspiring Writers” Award-winning writers Mark Duplass to Host and Nat Faxon to Judge

*Sun Valley, Idaho.....*The Sun Valley Film Festival (SVFF), presented by Zions Bank and taking place March 2-6, 2016, is focused on more than just showcasing great indie movies. It is also focused on providing numerous opportunities for aspiring talent, seasoned professionals and film fans to learn from industry experts.



Mark Duplass, an Award-winning writer, director, actor and producer of independent film and television, is this year's host of the Screenwriters Lab (SVSLab). Along with his brother, Jay, Mark co-founded Duplass Brothers Productions, responsible for such Sundance breakout hits as *Tangerine* (Magnolia Pictures), *The Overnight* (The Orchard), and *The Skeleton Twins* (IFC Films). Currently, Mark is working on season 2 of the HBO series *Togetherness*, which he writes, directs, produces and stars in. He is known for many more films including *The Puffy Chair* (Roadside Attractions & Netflix), *Baghead* (2008, Sony Pictures Classics) *Cyrus* (2010, Fox Searchlight), *Jeff Who Lives at Home* (2011, Paramount Vantage), and *The Do-Deca-Pentathlon* (2012, Fox Searchlight).

Nat Faxon is the SVSLab judge and will mentor each finalist of the SVSLab's 'High Scribe' competition. Faxon won the Academy Award® for Best Adapted Screenplay for co-writing *The Descendants* and in 2014 he co-wrote and co-directed the acclaimed comedy, *The Way Way Back*. Faxon is also well known for his starring roles in the Fox comedy series *Ben and Kate* and the FX series *Married*.

The Screenwriters Lab, sponsored by Boise State University, is one of SVFF's unique signature educational forums. Led by award-winning screenwriters, the Lab is a two hour glimpse into everything screenwriting, and includes the 'High Scribe' screenplay competition with submissions of original screenplays and TV pilots from aspiring writers. The Lab opens with a live table read of the host's current work. Next, the host shares stories about his/her career and has a Q&A with the audience. After a short Wyoming Whiskey sponsored tasting, The High Scribe Award, presented by Silver Creek Writers Residency, is announced during the Lab where a scene from the winning script is brought to life during a live table read with professional actors and a cash prize of \$1000 is awarded. This is a very high-profile interactive event that draws crowds, generates buzz and launches careers.

HIGH SCRIBE COMPETITION & AWARD

Spotlighted in the Screenwriters Lab is the High Scribe screenplay competition, which gives finalists an opportunity for one-on-one meetings with some of the industry's finest to discuss their work.

The Screenwriters Lab is now accepting original screenplays and television plots from aspiring screenwriters. The top three High Scribe finalists will enjoy exclusive residency at the SVFF, where they are housed and mentored by established screenwriters, included in parties and provided a Filmmaker's Pass. The High Scribe winner receives a cash prize of \$1,000 and invaluable career mentoring from top industry experts.

The previous High Scribe finalists have all benefited tremendously from their experience. In the SVSLab's first year, High Scribe winner, Cody Tucker, met with Academy Award® winning writer, Steve Gaghan (*Syriana*), who helped secure an agent for Tucker. In year two, Lab finalist, Ken Pisani, not only got a manager through Lab mentor and Academy Award® winner David Seidler (*The King's Speech*), but currently Pisani is working on a project with Seidler. Last year's High Scribe winner, Clark Carrol, continued his relationship with *Toy Story 4* writer Will McCormack. Carrol and McCormack's have met in Los Angeles to further develop his script.

SVSLab - High Scribe Screenplay Competition Submissions being accepted at
<http://sunvalleyfilmfestival.org/submissions/screenwriters-lab/>

SVSLAB HIGH SCRIBE SUBMISSION RULES & REQUIREMENTS

- All submissions must be accompanied by a logline and a non-refundable entry fee.
- Artistic statements, resumes and bios are also welcome but not required.
- Applicants must submit ONE (1) copy of their screenplay or PDF file. (Please submit entire script)
- Multiple entries are permissible, but each entry must be accompanied by a separate entry and fee.
- Submissions will not be returned.
- All fees are nonrefundable.
- All works must be original and unproduced as of January 1st, 2016
- Finalists will be notified by February 8th
- TO SUBMIT

Deadlines:

- December 8th – Regular - \$40
- January 5th – Late - \$45
- January 19th – Extended - \$65

SVFF FILM SUBMISSIONS ALSO BEING ACCEPTED

Submissions for the regular 2016 SVFF film slate are also currently being accepted. Details on deadlines and more at

<http://sunvalleyfilmfestival.org/submissions/film-submissions/>

About the Sun Valley Film Festival

The Fifth Annual Sun Valley Film Festival, presented by Zions Bank, will run March 2-6, 2016, and will feature a curated slate of more than 60 cutting-edge films and TV premieres, engaging Coffee Talks with top industry insiders, fabulous parties and panels, a Screenwriters Lab led by award-winning writers and the spectacular SVFF Awards Bash. The combination of cutting-edge programming and bona-fide insider access in a fun, relaxed atmosphere is making the Sun Valley Film Festival a rising star in the world of destination festivals. This coming spring, filmmakers from around the world will bring their vision to the Sun Valley Film Festival, and movie lovers are invited to watch it come into focus.

For festival details visit www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org. Get festival updates on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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Images available for download at <http://sunvalleyfilmfestival.org/media/>