

# Welcome to the Paul Haggis Online Screenwriting Class

## *BRING ME YOUR STORY*

open to writers, directors and auditors.

Are you struggling with a story? Do you have a great idea but don't know how to develop it? Have you written a screenplay and you absolutely love it but for some reason it's not selling? Or have you written a screenplay and you know it went wrong somewhere but don't know where? Or is it sitting there half written? Did you get stuck somewhere along the way?

It's a waste of time asking people to read your screenplay, finished or unfinished, unless it's great and ready to sell.

Maybe you are a terrific judge of that. Maybe you aren't.

Yes there are exceptions, but nine times out of ten, if a script doesn't sell it's because the story doesn't work. It's not the dialogue that needs polishing, it's not that you need to add more humor or more action scenes or backstory for your characters or any of the hundreds of pieces of wellmeaning advice you are going to get from people.

You can fiddle around for years trying to fix it, or you can look at the root of the problem.

It's almost always the story. That's where you went wrong. And your great dialogue, amazingly unique characters, fabulous chase scenes and breathtaking plot turns are just getting in the way, and masking the problem.

You should be able to tell me the story of your movie in under five minutes.

In this workshop, that's what you're going to do.

And after you tell me a story, we will dig in together and see if we can figure out why it's not working.

So strip your story down to its bare bones and get ready to tell it.

Practice pitching it to your friend or your mirror before you pitch it to me.

And if you are stuck someplace, that's ok. Just pitch me the story up until you hit the spot where you are stuck.

No promises, but maybe I can help you find a solution.

But what you have to bring is an open mind and a willingness to tear everything apart. Don't be scared. Rewriting gives you more time to play with those great characters you've created, and toss and turn them about. It's the thing I love the most about the process, because trust me, if you do your job right, you are gonna miss them when they are gone.

And no. I am not going to read your pitch or your outline or your script, now or ever. There is no point to that, cause I can't buy it. What I can do let's try and help you fix your story, so that when you go back to writing it, you don't waste a lot of time. You'll have a better chance of writing something really terrific, when it's based on a solid story that has a great ending

### **MORE INFO:**

- Cost: 400€
- The cost is intended per TEAM. You can attend with your co-writer, director, producer....
- Please download [zoom.com](https://zoom.com) on your computer.
- We will send you a link to access the class, few hours before class starts.