



Your ideas deserve the right platform

**ADVANCED CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
IN SERIES WRITING**

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN SERIES WRITING

Duration : 24 Weekends (6 Months)

Eligibility : 18+ years of age

Course Commences : August 2023

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The course will be writing-intensive, with theory instruction and mentorship from leading TV/Web series screenwriters, running parallel with the writing schedule. During the course, with guided supervision, the students will be able to write -

A pitch-ready bible for a finite fiction series of 8 episodes with scope for a second season

PROGRAM MODULES

These modules will run parallelly with each other to help the students in better understanding of screenwriting principles.

MODULE 1 SALIENT FEATURES OF SERIES WRITING

The first step in writing a web series is understanding the format. How is web series writing different from Novel, Film, or TV writing? How do you know if an idea is well-suited for a web series? How to convert the idea into a premise? And how to flesh out that premise into a long-format story?

MODULE 2 CHARACTERS

How to write characters that feel human and relatable enough to make viewers forget that they aren't real? How to explore the complexities, unresolved issues and multiple dimensions of the character's personality to ensure that his/her engagement with the plot remains vigorous and continues to expose hidden layers of the character over a long narrative? What is a character arc and how does that define the structure of the series? How to create a multitude of characters to exist and interact harmoniously with each other over the course of a season?

MODULE 3 BROAD STORY AND MILESTONES

How to write a show where the characters decide their own fate, for better or worse? The students will learn to keep the stakes of drama high by strengthening and pressing on the intentions and obstacles of their characters that create the friction and tension needed to create a strong screenplay.

MODULE 4 EPISODIC STRUCTURE

What is the best episode structure to effectively tell the character's stories? How does each ensemble character in the web series relate to, or affect the main character? How to build character development naturally into the series.

MODULE 5 PILOT SCREENPLAY

Pilots are crucial for hooking an audience and setting up your characters and storyline for an entire season. This module helps the students in writing a pilot screenplay that explains the story world and its characters and ends in a way to make the audience want more.

MODULE 6 SCREENING, ANALYSIS, AND READING SCREENPLAYS OF MINI-SERIES

Through the screening and analysis of multiple web series across different genres, the students will develop an understanding of how characters are introduced? How is each episode structured? How do plot elements unfold over a season? What does one mean by cliff-hangers? And most importantly, how does a show create enough drama to grab the viewer's attention for that long?

MODULE 7 PITCH

A great pitch is well-structured, visual, and quickly and easily conveys your show's concept and central characters. This module helps the students to learn how to pitch their show in 5-10 minutes.

PROGRAM FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS

During the program, participants will go through the complete process of creating a Show Bible for a web series - starting with ideation, creating unforgettable characters, expanding the idea into a broad story, plotting it over 8 episodes and writing the screenplay of the pilot episode.

Renowned TV & Web Writers come regularly during the program and conduct masterclasses with the students during the two terms. In this one-day session, the writers share their writing practice, their inspirations, their writing technique, and show examples from their shows and explain principles to the students.

Students also get masterclasses from screenwriter-teacher, Anjum Rajabali on Mythology, on the Mahabharata, and on Psychology.

There will also be an in-depth session on the importance of Navrasa in Indian dramaturgy by screenwriter-teacher, independent filmmaker and script consultant, Ashwini Malik.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

During the course, students will be assigned shows, which they will have to watch prior to the session. Theory will be explained through a critical analysis of the assigned show by the mentors in class. The classes will be divided into two sessions - morning and afternoon of three hours each.

Feedback sessions will be conducted as per the mentor's availability. Hence, could be scheduled during the week in which case the student will be given prior notice. Around the 8th and 16th week a gap week will be given as writing time to be able to meet submission deadlines. There will only be two such weeks.

The placement of these will be adjusted according to the writing progress of the students.

PROGRAM MENTORS

SWEKSHA BHAGAT, Program Lead

Sweksha Bhagat is an alumnus of the Screenwriting Department, Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. She taught Screenwriting as an Assistant Professor at FTII (2019-2020). She has written award-winning television shows - Qubool Hai, Chakravartin Ashok Samrat, Peshwa Bajirao, Kullfi Kumaar Baajewala to name a few, and two films under the animation mini-series - Krish Trish Baltiboy, which were well received at several international film festivals. For the past few years, she has been conducting Story Building and Screenplay Writing workshops for new writers at various premier institutes.

GAURAV PATKI, Little Things (Season 4), Once A Year

Gaurav Patki completed his Masters in Political Science from Pune University and studied screenwriting at Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. He is a proud holder of the prestigious scholarship of InLaks Foundation. He received his first credit as a dialogue writer for the film, F.U. directed by Mahesh Manjrekar. He conceived and wrote Once A Year (a rom-com), an MX original series. He also co-wrote the Netflix show, Little Things (Season 4). His first audio book titled, Boomerang released on Storytel. He has written What the Folks (Season 4), Chikatgunde (Season 1 & 2). He also directed a couple of Marathi web-shows. For his first series, Once A Year, he got nominated for Critics Choice Award 2019 and received the Ma.Ta. Sanman Award 2021.

SAMEER SARAL SHARMA, Udda Punjab, A Death in the Gunj

A screenwriting graduate from Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Sameer Saral Sharma is a professional screenwriter with experience in writing feature films, television & web series and short films. He has been part of writers' room of shows commissioned by Netflix, Amazon Prime, Zee5 and Voot. He's worked as dialogue writer for mystery-thriller television web series, Gyaarah Gyaarah produced by Dharmatic Entertainment and Sikhya Entertainment, which is slated for release on Zee5 soon. He currently heads a writers' room of a TV show for Excel Entertainment. Previously, he has worked as an Assistant Director on the critically acclaimed film, Udda Punjab, and as creative executive on the award-winning film, A Death in the Gunj. Two of his feature film screenplays are currently attached to a renowned production house.

He also teaches screenwriting as a guest lecturer at FTII, Ramesh Sippy Academy of Cinema and Entertainment (Mumbai University), and Whistling Woods International where he mentors student scripts for Foundation Films and Advanced Certificate Program in Series Writing. He was the workshop coordinator for the 7-day long FTII screenwriting workshop at the 47th International Film Festival of India.

TUSHAR PARANJAPE, Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui, Killa

Tushar Paranjape is a screenwriting alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. His first feature film as a writer was the critically acclaimed Marathi film, Killa (The Fort) directed by Avinash Arun, which won the Crystal Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival (2014) and the National Award for Best Marathi Film (2015). His second feature film as a writer was the highly appreciated Hindi feature film, Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui (2021) directed by Abhishek Kapoor. He was also the creative director of the Marathi feature film, Picasso (2020) directed by Abhijeet Warang, which won a special mention at the National Awards 2020. Before screenwriting, he worked as an assistant director on several feature films with National Award-winning Marathi filmmakers like Sumitra Bhave-Sunil Sukthankar, Sachin Kundalkar, and Sandeep Sawant. He has also worked as an assistant professor in the Screenwriting department of FTII from 2016 to 2018 and continues to work as a visiting faculty at various film institutes including FTII and Whistling Woods International. He is currently working on a Hindi web series project with a leading OTT platform and a Marathi feature film, which would be his directorial debut.

VAIDEHI SANCHETI, Storyteller

Vaidehi Sancheti is a compulsive poet and a passionate writer. She believes in the power of stories to change and heal the world. She has been conducting Screenwriting Fundamentals-related workshops in the FTII-SKIFT initiative, many private institutions and colleges of repute since 2017.

MASTERCLASSES

ANU SINGH CHOUDHARY, Aarya, Grahan, Scoop

A co-writer on Aarya (All Seasons), Grahan and Scoop, Anu Singh Choudhary is also a celebrated author in Hindi. Her experience as a documentary filmmaker and award-winning journalist make her stories an authentic chronicle of the zeitgeist. She has written extensively across mediums: print, radio, TV, films and digital. She has also co-written soon-to-be released films, Shastry Viruddh Shastry, Happy Teachers Day and has written the Hindi adaptation of the Malayalam masterpiece, The Great Indian Kitchen. As the co-founder of Dopamine Media, she has written and directed The Good Girl Show, a 5-part series for YouTube, and has co-produced Alma Matters: Inside the IIT Dream, a 3-part docu-series now streaming on Netflix. Her books Neela Scarf, Mamma Ki Diary and Bhali Ladkiyaan, Buri Ladkiyaan are all considered bestsellers. She has also translated well-known authors such as Perumal Murugan, Namita Gokhale, Paulo Coelho, Vir Sanghvi and Anuja Chauhan into Hindi. She has been awarded Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism and Laadli Media and Advertising Awards for her stories in Gaon Connection.

ABHIJEET DESHPANDE, Ani... Dr. Kashinath Ghanekar, Har Har Mahadev, Breathe

Abhijeet Deshpande is a director-writer by profession. He is a graduate from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune in Screenplay Writing. He has co-authored the screenplays of films like Mi Shivajiraje Bhosale Boltoy, Natsamrat, Table No. 21, Shootout at Wadala and dialogues for films like Shaitan, Wazir, Natsamrat and Table No. 21 and the Amazon Prime web series, Breathe (Season 1). He has been awarded the Zee Gaurav Award and the Maharashtra State Award for the Best Screenplay for the film, Mi Shivajiraje Bhosale Boltoy. He made his directorial debut with the Marathi film, Ani... Dr. Kashinath Ghanekar, which is a biopic based on the life of Indian theatre's first superstar Dr. Kashinath Ghanekar. As a director, his second film that released was Har Har Mahadev. Currently, he is wrapping a shoot for a period web series for Jio Studios titled Union - The Making of India.

CHARUDUTT ACHARYA, Aranyak, Sonali Cable

Charudutt Acharya's latest work as a scriptwriter is Aranyak, streaming on Netflix. He has written OTT shows like It's Not That Simple (Voot) and 1962 - A War In The Hills (Disney+ Hotstar). He is currently developing three shows for various OTT platforms. In TV drama, he has written for over 20 shows in different genres including Crime Patrol, Haqeeqat, Siddhanth, Kagaar, Kadam, Dhadkan, Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi & several others. He has co-written features like Vaastu Shastra, Dum Maaro Dum, and Nautanki Saala!. In 2014, he made his debut feature as writer-director with Sonali Cable. He is a graduate from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune (Directing batch of 95). He also holds a MA in Screenwriting from Royal Holloway University of London (2007). He has also won the Charles Wallace India Trust Award of the British Council (2006-07).

MITESH SHAH, Tumbbad, Helicopter Eela

Mitesh Shah is a screenwriter, producer and script consultant based in Mumbai. His work as a writer includes films like Tumbbad, Helicopter Eela. His upcoming projects are The Intern and a series titled Gulkanda Tales. His work as a co-producer/executive producer includes films like Tumbbad and Ship of Theseus.

ENTRANCE PROCESS

Along with the online application form, the student needs to submit the below to **kanchi.pariikh@whistlingwoods.net**

This will be evaluated for final selection.

Question 1

Choose a long-format show of your choice. Write a detailed character sketch (300 words each) of its protagonist, antagonist and an important secondary character including their physical, social and psychological profile.

Question 2

Choose a scene from the same show. Write a short note about the scene, analysing its beats, character arc and cinematic setting of the scene.

WWI VirtualAcademy

ONLINE MEDIA EDUCATION - REDEFINED!

For admission enquiries, please write to:
✉ kanchi.parikh@whistlingwoods.net

Whistling Woods International, Filmcity Complex, Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400065, India

📞 +91 77158 35371

☎ +91 22 62716003

🌐 www.wwivirtualacademy.com

DO WHAT YOU LOVE

Choose a job you love, & you will never have to work a day in you life {Confucius}