



California Writers Club

Mt. Diablo Branch
Chartered in 1987



Beth Lisick

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James Dalessandro **"Similarities Between Books and Screenplays"** **November 13, 2010**

James will discuss the process of writing from the standpoint of similarities in books and screenplays. He will give the basics of writing a screenplay, from concept and "logline" to general formatting. He will also explain how to convert a novel into a screenplay, and discuss some strategies in getting your screenplay into the hands of a producer.

James Dalessandro studied screenwriting at UCLA and worked as a writer at Columbia Pictures for many years, where he worked on dozens of films. From 1973-77, he was co-founder, with Lawrence Ferlinghetti, of The Santa Cruz Poetry Festival, and served as its director for four years.

James is best known for his non-fiction novel "1906," based on events surrounding the great San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906. A film adaptation was co-produced by Warner Bros. and Pixar Studios, in association with Walt Disney Pictures. He has published three other books, "Canary In a Coal Mine" (poetry), "Bohemian Heart" (detective fiction), and "Citizen Jane" (true crime). A member of the Writer's Guild of America, West, for more than two decades, James has also written the screenplays for his other two books.

James also wrote "The House of Blues Radio Hour," hosted by Dan Aykroyd (as Elwood Blues) and wrote/created "Rock On" with The Doors' keyboardist Ray Manzarek. Both projects were produced for Ben Manilla Productions of San Francisco. He is also the writer/director of the award winning documentary film, "The Damnedest, Finest Ruins."

Having taught "Screenwriting as a Pro" at Fort Mason Art Center in San Francisco, James currently teaches screenwriting at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. He has lectured at the Cinequest Film Festival and the L.A. Screenwriting Expo.