

GETTING YOUR WORK NOTICED

SCOUTING THE MARKET

- Spec scripts are meant to land you a staff job
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HIRING WINDOWS

- Fall to Midwinter: Pilot scripts commissioned
- Jan. to April: Best scripts become pilots
- May: Network announce who gets production orders
- Aug. to September: Series premiere
- Midwinter: Failing series replaced

MIDFALL TO MIDWINTER

- Work should be to studio executives months before
- They will have time to read
- They will hopefully give your show to producers who are asked to produce pilots

JANUARY TO APRIL

- Agent should try to get your material to that pilot's producer's as soon as it is announced
- Might be asked for multiple episodes
- Will take the agent's submission

MAY TO JULY

- Prime *staffing season*
- Orders for the coming TV season are announced

JULY TO THE FALL

- Staff assignments are filled
- Freelance assignments given

FALL TO MIDWINTER

- Additional episode orders are given out or not to shows that are succeeding or failing
- Staff or freelance jobs open up

WORKING WITH YOUR AGENT

- Call often
- Write down details of where your work is so you can follow up

DECISIONS

- What scripts to send
- What jobs to take
- Cold-calling Producers
 - Need names / numbers
 - Buy “Written By”
- Find the name and start the pitch

KEEP WRITING

- Keep writing
- Keep writing
- Keep writing
- Keep writing
- Write in teams
 - One writes, other sells: Other disadvantages?

DEALING WITH...

- Rejection
- Writer's Block
 - Set easy goals
 - Check your story
 - Fill some pages

PROTECT YOUR WORK

- Register with scrip registration department WGA
- Register your script with US Copyright office
- Call Copyright office: (202) 707-3000
- Form PA (performing arts)
 - Fill out, send back with \$20, and unbound copy of your script
- Get formal certificate in mail

WHO KEEPS COPYRIGHT?

- *Spec script*: you keep copyright
- *Work for hire* or *work made for hire*: they keep copyright

THE WRITER'S GUILD

- Official writer's union
- WGA does not find jobs
- Provides useful services

WGA SERVICES

- Negotiates industry-wide agreements
- Collects residual payments
- Provides contact information
- Free legal advice regarding union / contract
- Home base for numerous writer's committees
- Health insurance plan

WGA SERVICES

- Pension benefits for eligible members
- Governs writing credits
- Encourages networking
- Publishes monthly journal: *Written by*