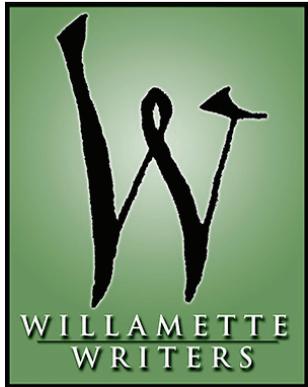


Here's Your Chance to Make a Movie!

BY: MARY ANDONIAN

Attention Tualatin writers: I have a very cool opportunity for you! I am a Tualatin resident and the new film coordinator for the annual Willamette Writers Conference. Not only will I be bringing in about a dozen LA agents, managers and producers to hear your pitch at next year's conference (August 1-3, 2014 at the Doubletree Hotel Lloyd Center), I am also heading up the extraordinary FiMLaB script-to-screen competition!



FiMLaB was the brainchild of my friend Ruth Witteried and another Tualatin resident (and Conference Chair) Stefan Feuerherdt. Back in 2012, they

developed a new screenwriting contest that not only rewarded the finalists with free entry into the conference, but the winner also saw her script get made into a short movie. That first year we screened winner Haley Isleib's movie, *Alis Volat Propriis*, at the conference. Just last month it was announced that *Alis Volat Propriis* won the best comic short at the Northwest Independent Film Festival and just last week it was announced it has been selected in the Mt. Hood Independent Film Festival. (This year's winner, *Inspiration*, will be hitting the festival circuits in 2014.)

The most important aspect of FiMLaB is the winner gets the opportunity to learn what it's like to be a professional writer. Once you win, you get to work alongside Ampersand Productions to make your script filmable. Every working writer knows that his screenplay is never finished until post-production, and you would have

the opportunity to be on-set, collaborating, as your film is made.

Here's where this gets exciting for Tualatin residents: This year's contest stipulates the setting must take place at the Willamette Writers house in West Linn. (Other parameters: use no more than four actors/characters, must be in proper screenplay format, and seven or fewer pages.) The set location is right next door! That's an easy commute to see your film come to life right in front of your very eyes.

The entry fee is only \$25 until December 31 and then goes to \$30 from Jan 1-Mar 1, 2014. (Fees for Willamette Writers members are \$20 and \$25, respectively.) We will announce the winner April 1, 2014, and if you win you will spend time in April prepping your script for a May 1 production schedule. Your film will be screened at the 2014 conference and will have exposure to all of the LA executives. (Maybe a nice segue to a Hollywood screenwriting career?) We'll post the last two winning scripts on the Willamette Writers site, as well as a video of the Willamette Writers house to inspire your writing.

Even if you're not a writer and/or you don't plan to submit a script to the contest, please consider donating to Willamette Writers (and specify FiMLaB). And remember that the Oregon Cultural Trust will match your



Ampersand Productions shooting last year's winning script, *Alis Volat Propriis*.

donation dollar for dollar so your generosity can really make a difference!

Please go to www.willamettewriters.com to learn more about the annual conference and about FiMLaB. Willamette Writers is a non-profit that serves all writers: non-fiction, fiction, screen, web-based, memoirists, poets, and playwrights. We also nurture young writers, providing books for kids in need and tools to help young writers succeed.

I hope to see you at the 2014 conference and, better yet, I hope I get to watch your film!

Mary Andonian is the 2014 Film Coordinator and former board member for Willamette Writers, one of the largest writing associations in the country. She's the author of the teen book, *Bitsy's Labyrinth*, which she later adapted into a screenplay. She has just finished her third screenplay, a comedic romp called *Timeshare*. Mary has lived in Tualatin with her husband and two daughters since 2002.

