



## **AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS FOR AFI CATALYST WORKSHOP 2009**

### **Program helps scientists translate their work into stories for film, television and new media**

LOS ANGELES, September 1, 2009—The American Film Institute is accepting applications from scientists and engineers to participate in the AFI Catalyst Workshop 2009 to learn about the art of storytelling. The workshop will focus on tools to translate scientific work into stories for film, TV and new media, and each participant will be paired with a screenwriter. The AFI Catalyst Workshop 2009 will be held in Los Angeles on November 9–13, 2009.

This year marks the fourth Catalyst Workshop offering. Previous workshops and participants have received national and international attention in such diverse publications as Science, The Wall Street Journal and the Los Angeles Times. Participants from previous AFI Catalyst Workshops have gone on to write screenplays, novels (Hard Thrust by Mark Valah), and non-fiction books (The Physics of NASCAR by Diandra Leslie-Pelecky), optioned series concepts, and formed production companies (Reelblue, LLC, a media production company that specializes in stories about global health and the environment).

Applications for this year's workshop are due September 14, 2009. A maximum of 12 applicants will be selected and participants will be notified October 5, 2009. The cost to attend the five-day intensive workshop is \$500 and the application fee is \$50.

Joe Petricca, AFI Conservatory executive vice dean, said, "The Catalyst Workshop is exceptional because it brings high level science professionals - from doctors to engineers - to the AFI campus and pairs them with AFI Screenwriting alumni so they can learn how to successfully blend the practical elements of science with the art of storytelling."

"The workshop is a worthy effort toward 'demystifying Hollywood' for scientists," says marine biologist turned filmmaker Randy Olson.

For application procedures and requirements, visit <http://www.afi.com/education/catalyst/default.aspx>.

**About the American Film Institute**

AFI is a national institute providing leadership in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media.

AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory, preserves the legacy of America's film heritage through the AFI Catalog of Feature Films, and explores new digital technologies at AFI's Digital Content Lab. For 37 years, the AFI Life Achievement Award has remained the highest honor for a career in film.

AFI also honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year at AFI Awards, the institute's almanac for the 21st century, while AFI's 100 Years... series has introduced and reintroduced classic American movies to millions of film lovers. And as the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the United States, AFI's festivals include AFI FEST presented by Audi in Los Angeles and AFI-Discovery Channel SILVERDOCS documentary film festival in Silver Spring, Maryland. It also offers year-round programming at the ArcLight Cinemas and Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in the Washington DC, area. Additional information about AFI is available at [AFI.com](http://AFI.com).

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