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## Portland writer latest winner in innovative screenwriting project

NEW YORK, NY, March 9, 2009 -- Portland, Oregon screenwriter Steven Dexheimer has been announced as the latest winner in the Cowrite screenplay competition.

Cowrite is a truly innovative screenwriting competition. In association with respected production company Benderspink (A History of Violence, Just Friends, The Butterfly Effect), Cowrite is utilizing social networking and the "wisdom of the crowd" to create a community-sourced screenplay.

Writers throughout the world are currently collaborating on a movie script based on a posted story premise. The script is being written in ten-page increments based on contestant submissions. Every other week, the best ten-page script submission will continue to be added to the developing story until the script is finished and ready to be sold.

"The Cowrite competition is a unique experiment in social media," said Dexheimer. "I've never seen anything like this, where a community of writers collaborate on a project of this scale. "

Cowrite believes this method of art creation will become a widely accepted, and, in fact, sought out way of finding new talent while producing blueprints for major motion pictures. After all, what better market research tool for studios trying to figure out what audiences want to see at the theaters than letting the audiences provide the content?

The initial story premise was simple. An awkward teenager dreams of being a real life James Bond, then finds himself at the center of an international conspiracy. Of course, he's way in over his head.

"We have a starting point, but each writer is free to take the story in any direction they choose," Dexheimer said. "Any subplots or character relationships that are explored become the basis for the next writer to build from. It will be interesting to see how future writers take my ideas and push them forward."

There will be eleven winners over the six month contest. Each winning entrant will receive money and prizes totaling \$3000, a pitch meeting with Benderspink and a chance to win the grand prize of a paid rewrite of the script. Winners will also share in any potential script sale proceeds.

"This is a fabulous opportunity for writers outside of Hollywood to get their work read," said Dexheimer. "It's nearly impossible to crack this industry and the exposure of a competition like this can be huge."

Another exciting aspect of the Cowrite website is the "Pro's Take" section where professional screenwriters and industry professionals will offer comments and suggestions on the developing story as well as insight into how to get started in Hollywood. Guest mentors will include screenwriters Andrea Berloff (World Trade Center), Jesse Wigutow (Irreparable Harm) and Josh Schaer (TV's Jericho).

Cowrite LLC has partnered with The Los Angeles Film Festival, iScript and software companies Final Draft and Jungle Software, all of which will supply prizes to each of the eleven winners.

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