

GIVE A CONCISE BIOGRAPHY OF YOURSELF? [Your first time writing for cinema, theater, and/or TV, writing in school, writing groups etc. We like to track what ignited the writer in you - include links to your blog, website etc]

Jordan Tate is a productive screenwriter with a strong interest in thrillers, tormented characters and stories based on actual events. Her work has been influenced by Alfred Hitchcock, James Cameron, Steven Spielberg, Tim Burton, Christopher Nolan and Stanley Kubrick. She loves to put her audience and readers on the wrong track with characters who are never what they seem to be. She often quotes the legendary movie "King Kong" as being behind her vocation.

Her recent accomplishments include: assignments for producers in Europe and USA, as well as several screenplays optioned, books adaptations and original screenplays.

I first started writing spec screenplays when I was a teenager, I totally concur with Peter Jackson' when he says "The most honest form of filmmaking is to make a film for yourself. " I've started writing the kind of films I wanted to see, the kind of characters that would inspire me both as a viewer, film enthusiast and writer.

My first time really writing for film, I mean my first real assignment was for producer Jerry Seward a few years ago, when he contacted me to work on a science fiction project titled "Cyber Hunt" that is currently in active development.

Jerry now co-owns Legion M entertainment and they recently produced Anne Hathaway's "Colossal. "

You can see more about my work at jordantate.net my official website, follow me on twitter @jtate

and my blog jordantate.blogspot.com

As well as imdb at http://www.imdb.com/name/nm4227709/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR WRITING?

I've been inspired by directors such as Dario Argento, Tim Burton, James Cameron, Alfred Hitchcock, Woody Allen, Brian De Palma, Christopher Nolan, Steven Spielberg.

I think my writing is a mixture of all these influences, my personal life experiences and my desire to escape reality and live a thousand lives.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO WRITING? [what moment in your past caused you to decide to become a writer]

The day I decided I wanted to work in the film industry was the day I first saw "King Kong". I was around 6 year old and I remember my parents had a video tape of the film and we watched it together, it was my first time seeing a movie and crying, and the very first time I was feeling deep emotions watching images on a screen.

It was John Guillermin's version with Jessica Lange and Jeff Bridges, and I understood that cinema could be that amazing, larger than life way to dream and experience deep emotions.

Although it was a long time ago these images and this feeling are still very fresh in my mind. The day I really got into screenwriting happened a few years after in 2008 when I read James Cameron screenplay for "Titanic". I completely fell for this film and when reading this perfectly written and very visual enables me to comprehend how a a piece of writing could create a dream and as a matter of fact a masterpiece that had the extraordinary power to inspire million people around the world. I understood the power of writing at that moment.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SCREENPLAY AND A PLAY?

A screenplay is the basis for creating a moving picture so it has to be a very visual medium, more visual than a play that only features concise descriptions of sets at the start of acts, and mostly dialogues.

HOW DO YOU TURN AN IDEA INTO A PLAY?

Researching deeply is the key. When I have an idea in mind, I research and read a lot of articles and books revolving on that topic, then I dig deeper into my character's motivations, their failures, their wounds, I imagine their past, their recollections, the job they do, and what slowly led them to live the existence they life, to feel the way they feel and envision life. I believe it's very important to create torments, ordeals that will explain my characters acts, reactions and motives.

Then I imagine the film I would like to see based on all these ideas and the concept I brought together and I write a synopsis sometimes a treatment with a beginning middle and end. Finally I develop all the scenes based on that 3 acts synopsis.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO GET AN IDEA, THAT YOU CAN TURN INTO A PLAY?

Actually I'm getting my ideas from everywhere and first and foremost from life, my own experiences and meetings, but also my own torments, nightmares and ordeals. I've been through a lot so it helps me draft dark, tormented characters.

I also get my ideas from tv, radio, I read a good deal of articles everyday and many real life accounts, as I'm very partial to subjects based on true events.

I have several producers also contacting me with their own ideas to develop for them.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE A FEW WRONG IMPRESSIONS WRITERS INDULGE IN

Being influenced by amateurish negative people and stop dreaming after getting bad reviews, or getting discouraged because one of their projects don't sell. I see this all the time.

It's sad to let small minds bring you down and convince you your dreams are too big.

You have to keep on dreaming and keep your imagination alive! You should not only follow your dreams but CHASE them with a mighty heart!

WHAT BOOKS DO YOU READ?

I read several writing books including

William Goldman's *Adventures in the screen trade*, Linda Seger's *making a Good script great* Blake Snyder's *save The Cat!: The Last Book On Screenwriting You'll Ever Need*.

When I have some spare time I also enjoy reading novels, including from French writer Marc Levy.

"Les miserables" by Victor Hugo is one of my favorite books, some of my other favorites include Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, "The portrait of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde, and "The phantom of the opera" by Gaston Leroux.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO KEEP IN SHAPE AS A WRITER?

I read a lot of screenplays obviously and watch many movies a week.

I also follow a vegetarian diet, and recent studies proved it protects against memory loss.

WHEN YOU ARE OFFERED A PLAY TO WRITE, WHAT IS YOUR ROUTINE?

First, reading the subject several times to immerse myself into the story, theme and characters, then researching deeply on that theme. Then, sitting before my laptop and starting to make notes based on the articles I saved.

Ernest Hemingway said "*The first draft of anything is shit.*" But you have to start writing that first draft to be able to develop ideas and create good material during phase number 2: Rewriting your script and writing several drafts of it, which will be primordial to get the best possible material.

HOW DO YOU DEVELOP A CHARACTER IN A SCRIPT TO A HONEST, BELIEVABLE AND BREATHING PERSON?

By reading and studying real life accounts and watching interviews and documentaries and sometimes make friend with the type of person I'm supposed to write about. I'll observe them, their reaction and the way they live, and above all I'll listen to them. Being a good listener is a good way to write great material.

WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE CHARACTER YOU HAVE CREATED?

Well, it's a tricky question and some of my characters will obviously feel offended if I don't choose them! (lol)

But I would say writing about Merian Cooper, it's not a character I've created as he was a very famous filmmaker, but to write my screenplay "The adventurer" I had to imagine a character based on the articles I had read since I have never met him in real life obviously. And I must say I absolutely loved penning this tribute to that soldier, adventurer and filmmaker creator of King Kong.

This project will be promoted at Cannes International market this year and I'm very proud of it.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM A DIRECTOR DURING A PRODUCTION?

I want to find easy to work with people. Someone who respects me as a writer, who respects my sensitivity and my vision of course, but who is also able to create a good atmosphere so the crew, the actors and production team can feel they are in harmonious work environment. Producing a film is like creating a small family. I promote a good and harmonious working environment and atmosphere and a good working ambience is always palpable on the screen. I'm not into tyrants at all and I usually walk away from negative people.

HOW DO YOU PREFER TO WORK WITH A DIRECTOR DURING A PRODUCTION?

In harmony and respect.

DO YOU GET OFFERS FROM FILM INDUSTRIES? LIKE HOLLYWOOD, BOLLYWOOD OR NOLLYWOOD? [Nollywood is the Nigeria cinema]

Sometimes from Indian producers but I've declined most of them.

WHAT DO YOU THINK A WRITER CAN DO TO GET INTO THE INDUSTRY?

Writing obviously and networking, there are so many independent producers in need of fresh ideas or new writers. Someone once said "luck is when preparation meets opportunity".

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE WRITER?

Probably Victor Hugo. I also love Nora Ephron and Christopher Nolan and obviously James Cameron.

WHY IS THIS PERSON YOUR FAVORITE WRITER? [Give precise details relating to the writers body of work]

Victor Hugo was an incredible witness of his time, of misery, of people's struggle. All his characters were believable. Most of them memorable. Look at the miserables it keeps being adapted around the world and it was published in 1862! The last adaptation I saw was the film with Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway, a masterpiece for me, I cried so much watching it.

Nora Ephron was an amazing female screenwriter, she drafts so many beautiful romantic comedies for Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. And James Cameron wrote "Titanic" the script that made me want to get into screenwriting for better or worse! (smiles)

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE AMATEUR WRITERS AROUND THE WORLD

To me there are no such thing as amateur writers, someone who writes stories, whose imagination keeps being tickled by characters, stories, and the desire of developing them already is a writer.

So keep writing, keep showing your work, being a professional writer just means you're being paid for what you do. Time will come, with work, luck and will.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO ADDRESS A GROUP OF WRITERS IN AN INTERVIEW, TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS?

Not part of my projects.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TAKE PART IN SHORT WRITERS WORKSHOP AS AN INTERNATIONAL COACHES?

Not part of my projects either.

BRIEFLY WRITE ABOUT YOUR CAREER [The productions you have done, the characters you have played, and the effect this has had on your career - include links to you blog, website etc]

Besides Cyber Hunt with producer Jerry Seward and director David Winning, and a recent Michael Jackson biopic titled "Don't stop dancing", my current projects include "Full Bloom", a screenplay I wrote recently based on Mark. T. Greene's book and presently in development with award winning female director Michalina Scorzelli. She's such an amazing, positive and hard-working artist. "Full bloom" is based upon Mark's real life story and his struggle with bipolar disorder. It's a courageous and poignant account and an important project to tell.

I've also recently finished writing a mobster film titled "Tradimento", and we are in talks with name talents and actually eying Asia Argento for the female lead. Marty Thomas is also attached to direct the film and investors are welcome to contact me any time!

Writing on actor and French resistance member Robert Lynen for french cinema had a huge impact on me too, I keep admiring these people who risked their lives for freedom and for the world to be a better place. Robert Lynen was executed with 14 other Resistance members at the age of 23 for this sake . This project is currently being shopped around by my agent in France.

Merian Cooper, as I stated earlier, is another person who inspires me to excel myself, especially after writing biopic "The adventurer". Cooper used to say that life is an adventure, so is writing, the most intense and worthy of all. As a soldier, he's been imprisoned several times, escaped camps on several occasions, and cheated death so many times... Consequently, "King Kong" was created because Merian Cooper refused to give up on life. To me, this type of characters and of inspirational people became role models and keep helping me chasing my dreams everyday. And if this artist had given up on his own dreams so many decades ago, I would not be chasing mines as we speak.

The adventurer

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5833048/?ref_=nm_dev_5

"L'aiglon" Robert Lynen's biopic

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt6351048/?ref_=nm_dev_2

Full Bloom

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4348912/?ref_=nm_film_wr_1

Tradimento

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5671170/?ref_=nm_film_wr_2

Thank you,

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Kind regards,

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