

# HOW TO SHOP A MOVIE SCRIPT?

On 1/13/06, Matthew D. O'Conner wrote:

Client has finished a movie script but written it in the form of a book specifically to 'shop' it around for a movie. Wants to copyright work, then show it to directors and two specific Hollywood actors.

Suggestions on how to find correct agents for actors or the contact personnel for directors? I suspect that these people get deluged with such material and don't want things tossed aside.

Are there any obvious questions that I am not asking but should be?

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Matthew,

There are a few ways to find out talent representation. One is Celebrity Access ([www.celebrityaccess.com](http://www.celebrityaccess.com)). It's a subscription service you can use to look up representation (among other things such as prices for speaking engagements, etc.) I believe that they might offer a trial period that you/your friend might use.

For directors, contact the DGA (Directors Guild of America) and for talent call SAG (Screen Actors Guild) and they should be able to help you. Also, you might check to see if the particular people you are looking for have their own website. Frequently, that will list current projects and representation.

To get additional background information, check the Internet Movie Database ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)). For bigger names there is some terrific personal and biographical information that may indicate whether the material would be of interest to the person you are trying to reach.

Finally, it's usually an extreme challenge to get material read by anyone without a personal contact or reference to the people you are trying to reach. They frequently will not even look at unsolicited material for a variety of reasons, including a fear of lawsuits for producing similar material. If your friend is really serious about pursuing a deal for their book/script, they should either get to people directly with contacts or get a literary agent for him or herself.

I didn't get whether your friend intends to write the script version or wants someone else to do that, but if they want to do it, it will be a challenge to get someone to sign them on without a track record of some sort. If the intention is to publish the book as a book, then it would be a good idea also to pursue a literary agent who knows about the publishing business, which is similar, but somewhat different from the movie business.

There are some books that publish the names of authors representatives and the types of material they are looking for, and whether they accept unsolicited material. A good one is the annual Writer's Market (info can be found at [www.writersmarket.com](http://www.writersmarket.com)). For Hollywood agents, you can get a list from the (WGA) Writer's Guild of America (West branch for most Hollywood interests). There is also some interesting info. on the WGA website ([www.wga.org](http://www.wga.org)), including sample contracts, current minimums, credits, etc.

I hope this helps.

Diana Laskaris

Attorney

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