



The Joan Bressler
Set in Philadelphia
2027 Screenwriting Competition

August 3, 2026 - March 31, 2027

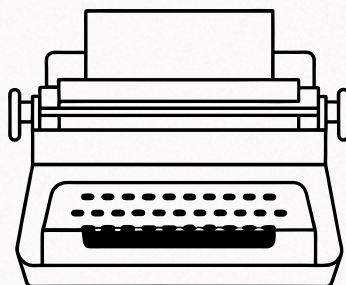
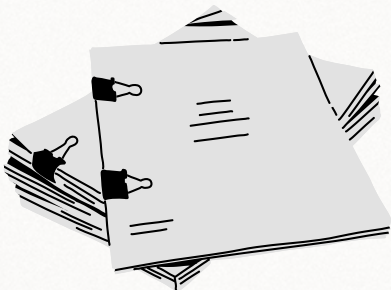
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HISTORY

The **Set in Philadelphia (SIP) Screenwriting Competition** has long been a celebration of emerging voices in film and television. While its earliest years trace back to the *Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema*, SIP officially came under the wing of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office (GPFO) in 2002. From the beginning, SIP was built on the dedication of talented readers, judges, and sponsors who believed in nurturing new storytellers. In 2025, GPFO changed the screenwriting competition title to **The Joan Bressler Set in Philadelphia Screenwriting Competition** in honor of its long-time steward for her 30-year commitment to the contest and film industry in Philadelphia.

SIP has been honored to feature an extraordinary finalist judging panel over the years, including Oscar-nominated director and producer **Lee Daniels**, Oscar-nominated and Emmy-winning actor **Colman Domingo**, Emmy-winning actress and producer **Sheryl Lee Ralph**, critically acclaimed creator and showrunner **Brad Ingelsby**, and Emmy-winning actress **Kim Delaney**. Alongside these iconic creators, Hollywood executives, network development vice presidents, and literary agents round out SIP's panel.

SIP has consistently opened doors for writers - connecting them with industry professionals, mentors, and judges who often champion their work beyond the competition. Many applicants credit SIP with helping launch their careers through advice, opportunities, and exposure. Notable alumni include **Adam F. Goldberg**, the creator of ABC's long-running hit comedy *The Goldbergs*, Emmy-winning writer and Disney executive **Derek Dressler**, and acclaimed director **Jeremiah Zagar**, whose work includes Netflix's sports drama *Hustle*.



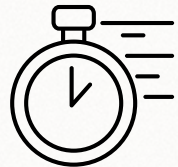
SIP's IMPACT



Geographic Reach and Local Footprint. While SIP is open to storytellers worldwide, it serves as a massive cultural lightning rod for the Tri-State area, historically drawing the vast majority of its submissions directly from Pennsylvania talent alongside a strong contingent of New Jersey and New York creators looking to bring their productions to the region.



Economic and "Shootability" in Philadelphia Impact. The true impact of SIP goes beyond the page; every single submission is rigorously evaluated on its "shootability" within the Greater Philadelphia region. By identifying and elevating scripts designed to be produced locally, SIP creates an active pipeline that channels independent film production directly into our regional economy, public spaces, and local crews.



History Longevity and Cash Infusions. Spanning nearly twenty-five years under GPFO, SIP has built an enduring legacy of artist support, delivering substantial cash awards directly to filmmakers to foster independent development. This long-term commitment has cemented SIP as one of the region's most stable and valued launchpads for original storytelling.

OVER
200
SCRIPTS
RECEIVED
ANNUALLY

CREATING
OPPORTUNITY
SINCE
2002

**AWARD
WINNING**
JUDGES
AND
READERS

2027 SIP COMPETITION PRIZE CATEGORIES

**FEATURE LENGTH
SCREENPLAY GRAND PRIZE**

\$10,000

PRIME TIME TV PILOT PRIZE

\$5,000

CONTENT FOR KIDS AWARD

\$5,000

**NINA LO PRESTI AWARD FOR
A FEMALE SCREENWRITER**

\$1,500

**MITCHELL CREATIVE ALLIANCE AWARD
(SHORT FEATURING LOCAL UNIV/COLLEGE)**

\$1,500

Administration Fee. An administrative fee is included in each sponsorship package. It supports program coordination, marketing, and competition operations through the Greater Philadelphia Film Office.

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS



Feature Length Screenplay Grand Prize Winner

\$15,000 Sponsorship

The Grand Prize is the competition's highest honor and is available for sponsorship for the 2027 SIP Competition and beyond! This prestigious award recognizes the most outstanding screenplay across all genres and offers an exclusive opportunity to host an award reception for the winners.



The Oscar Micheaux Award for a Regional Screenwriter of the African Diaspora

\$5,000 Sponsorship

The regional \$2,500 Oscar Micheaux Award honors the pioneering filmmaker and novelist, celebrating creative contributions of the African Diaspora to screenwriting. This specialty prize can be won in addition to our format-specific awards, allowing a feature or TV pilot to win both the Micheaux and the Grand Prize or Primetime TV Pilot award. Sponsorship is open for 2028+.



CUSTOM PRIZES AVAILABLE!

\$5,000 Sponsorship

We can create a prize just for you! Here are just a few ideas of custom awards you can sponsor: Culinary Arts/Food Prize, Hispanic & Latin American Heritage Prize, Tech & Innovation Prize, and Green Eco-Awareness Prize. And we are here to brainstorm ideas! Underwriting a specialized category allows your organization to sponsor a script category aligned with your industry or mission, secure dedicated naming rights for the prize, and receive featured positioning throughout our marketing campaign and award presentation ceremony.

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS



Promotional Recognition. Logo, name placement, and **recognition** on the SIP Competition and GPFO websites, newsletters, press releases and media coverage, including social media highlights and tagged sponsor posts throughout the competition cycle.



Award Reception. An **exclusive** invitation to the annual SIP Award Reception with gratitude for sponsorship efforts. Free tickets to the event for sponsors and guests and an opportunity to hand out award to competition winners.



Naming Rights. Opportunity to **personalize and sponsor** an existing award. (e.g., The [Your Company Name] Grand Prize for a Feature Length Screenplay). Opportunities are available to create a **custom award** based on your organization's particular niche interests.



Tax-Deductible Support. All **contributions** are made through GPFO, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and may be eligible for **tax deduction** in accordance with federal law.

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Support Creativity, Career Growth, Economic Impact and the Future of Film in Philadelphia

Each year, **the Joan Bressler Set in Philadelphia (SIP) Screenwriting Competition** shines a spotlight on storytellers whose work has the power to inspire, entertain, and elevate our regional film industry. Presented by the Greater Philadelphia Film Office, SIP serves as a vital cornerstone for emerging screenwriters - connecting them with industry professionals, hands-on mentorship, and the career-defining opportunities that turn creative ideas into tangible productions.

By contributing, you are doing more than investing in talent - you are **directly fueling a creative economy** that brings film production, local jobs, and global visibility to our city. Your sponsorship **strengthens Philadelphia's presence** as a premier, go-to production hub.

Together, we can continue building a flourishing film community - one screenplay, one filmmaker, and one sponsor at a time.

READY TO SUPPORT?

[CLICK TO CONTACT GPFO](#)



Use the QR code to visit
the SIP website for
more details

SIP TEAM

Hosted by: Greater Philadelphia Film Office (Co-Executive Directors Nicole Shiner and Erin Wagner)

Coordinated by: Lena Bhise (Director, Greater Philadelphia Filmmakers)

Assisted by: Joan Bressler (Former GPFO Director of Filmmakers) & Brian Wade (Screenwriter, Professor & SIP Co-Founder)



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