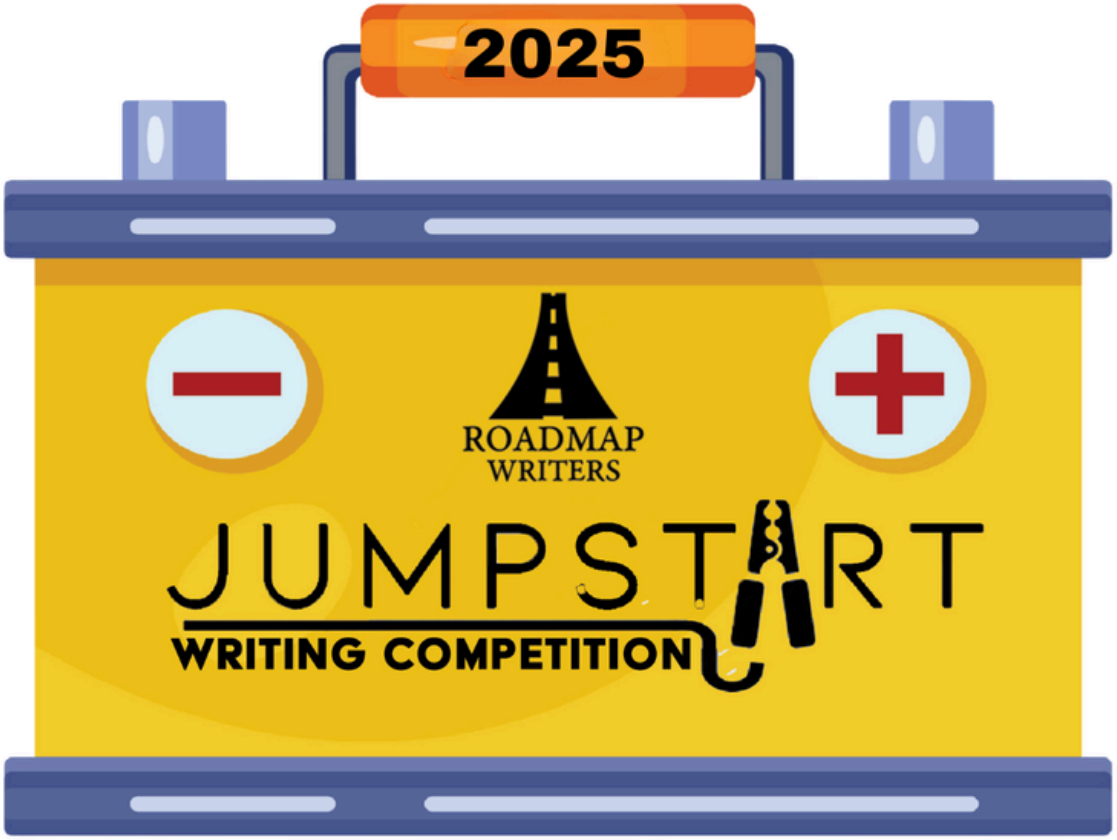
2025



COMPETITION BOOKLET

FINALISTS

ROADMAP WRITERS

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO/FOUNDER

2025 was another year of navigating an ever-changing industry, but one thing remained constant: Roadmap Writers' commitment to helping writers succeed. Despite the challenges, Roadmap writers continued to secure representation for writers, advance their projects, and build meaningful relationships with industry professionals. We expanded our competitions, fellowships, and partnerships, creating new opportunities for emerging voices while continuing to champion diversity and accessibility.

As I reflect on the year, I realize how similar this message is to the ones I've written before. That's because while the industry continues to change, our mission never does. Since day one, Roadmap has been about opening doors, breaking barriers, and helping talented writers turn opportunities into careers.

As we head into 2026 and celebrate a decade of Roadmap Writers, we're reminded that success isn't just about the doors we've opened, but the writers who've walked through them. Here's to opening even more.

CEO/Founder
Joey Tuccio



ROADMAP WRITERS

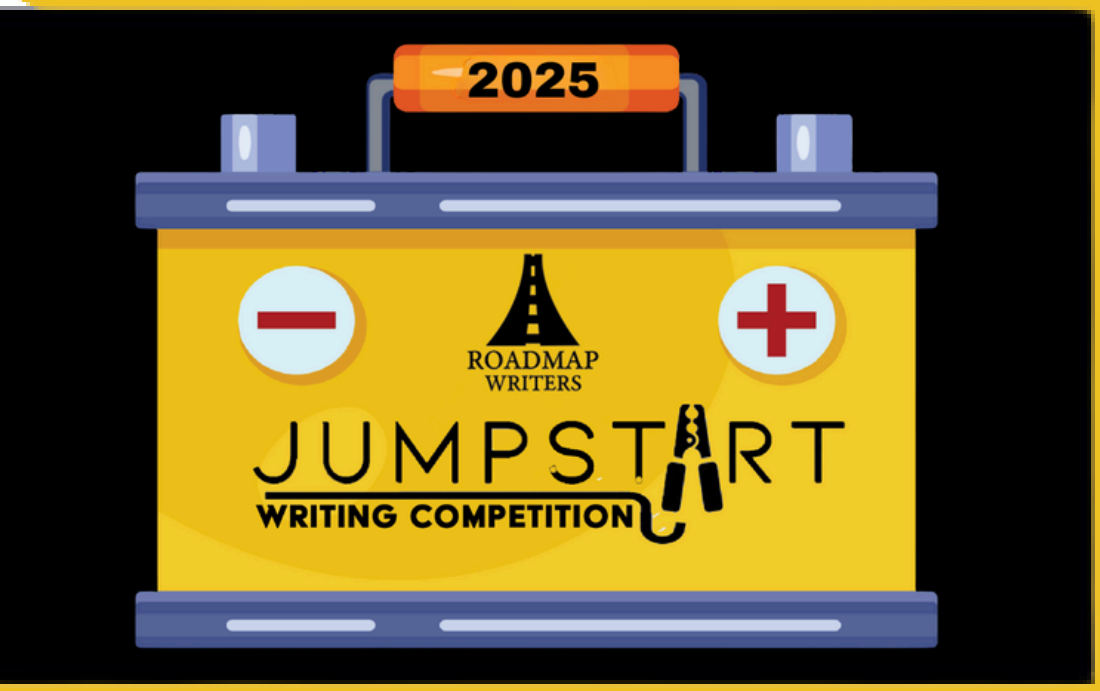
Roadmap Writers is a screenwriting education and training platform for people looking for a guided path to professional success writing for film and tv. Our programs are hosted by working industry executives and are designed to empower writers with actionable tools and insights to elevate their craft and cultivate relationships with industry professionals. Founded in 2016, by Joey Tuccio and Dorian Connelley, Roadmap has helped over 400 writers sign with representation, while countless others have gotten staffed on tv shows, had their scripts optioned, or sold their scripts.

2025

JUMPSTART COMPETITION

JumpStart is our flagship screenwriting competition that provides consistent opportunities throughout the entire year for our winners, semifinalists, and beyond. We place a premium on creating industry relationships for these writers so they can get signed, staffed, or optioned.

FINALISTS: FEATURES



2025



AMY CHARLESWORTH

Bio:

Amy Charlesworth is a screenwriter specializing in raunchy comedy based on real-life experiences. After years of working for an organization focused on women's empowerment, her clients have become the strong female characters of their own stories and the inspiration for her writing.

Amy began her career with a mentorship through Script Reader Pro before becoming an on-staff writer and production coordinator at All That's Good Productions and its subsidiary, Independent Content Studio. She is now an executive producer at Niice Films, where her teen sex comedy Daley Dysfunction is currently in production.

Script: TOUCHWOOD

Logline:
She's surrounded by hot bodies. He's surrounded by cold ones... A promiscuous sex therapist and a virgin mortician challenge each other to confront their insecurities and issues with intimacy.



DAVID ZELTSER



Bio:

David Zeltser is a full-time screenwriter and a Random House published author of seven children's books, with an eighth coming out next year. His holiday feature spec, DETECTIVE CLAUS, was the number one family script on Coverfly and won Cinequest, inspiring Caroline Thompson (writer of The Nightmare Before Christmas) to call it "truly enchanting-a perfect Rubik's cube script." David lives with his wife and daughter in Santa Cruz, California. His Academy Nicholl-placing script, SOLO, is being produced by Oscar-winning producer Jonathan Sanger (Vanilla Sky, The Producers, Marshall) and James Trezza (Pollock).

Script: DETECTIVE CLAUS

Logline:
Always chasing the next big case, a divorced workaholic detective ignores Christmas-and his young daughter's needs. But when a suspicious North Pole accident sidelines Santa, dad and daughter must team up to find the culprit-and rethink who gets to wear the magic red suit in today's world.

DUNCAN NOVAK



Bio:

Duncan Novak is a Los Angeles-based screenwriter drawn to high-concept, character-driven stories about people trapped inside systems-corporate, emotional, or institutional. Living with mild cerebral palsy, he writes from a lifelong awareness of control, perception, and limitation. His work combines emotional tension with structural precision, often exploring moral collapse through tightly contained narratives. He began screenwriting in sixth grade and holds a journalism degree with honors from Emerson College. Duncan's voice is grounded, intelligent, and pressure-tested-focused on human behavior under escalating stakes.

Script: CAT BURGLARS



Logline:
In this deconstruction of neo-noir thrillers - Jude Turner, a suicidal young man living with Cerebral Palsy, embarks on a brutal quest for revenge against the people who stole his cat.



HADJ GILL

Bio:

Hailing from the heart of Hollywood North, Vancouver, Hadj's journey takes him from the boxing ring to the writer's desk. Having worked as a trainer in world championship fights in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, he brings a unique perspective to his craft, channeling his experiences into scripts that resonate with raw authenticity. His stories, mirroring his life, are a tapestry woven with the threads of resilience and triumph.

Script: UNREST

Logline:
A man, haunted by a classmate's murder twenty years ago, is trapped in a nightmarish version of his old school, forced to relive the tragic day. To save the victim, he must choose: sacrifice himself or endure eternal torment.

SAMANTHA SILVAY

Bio:

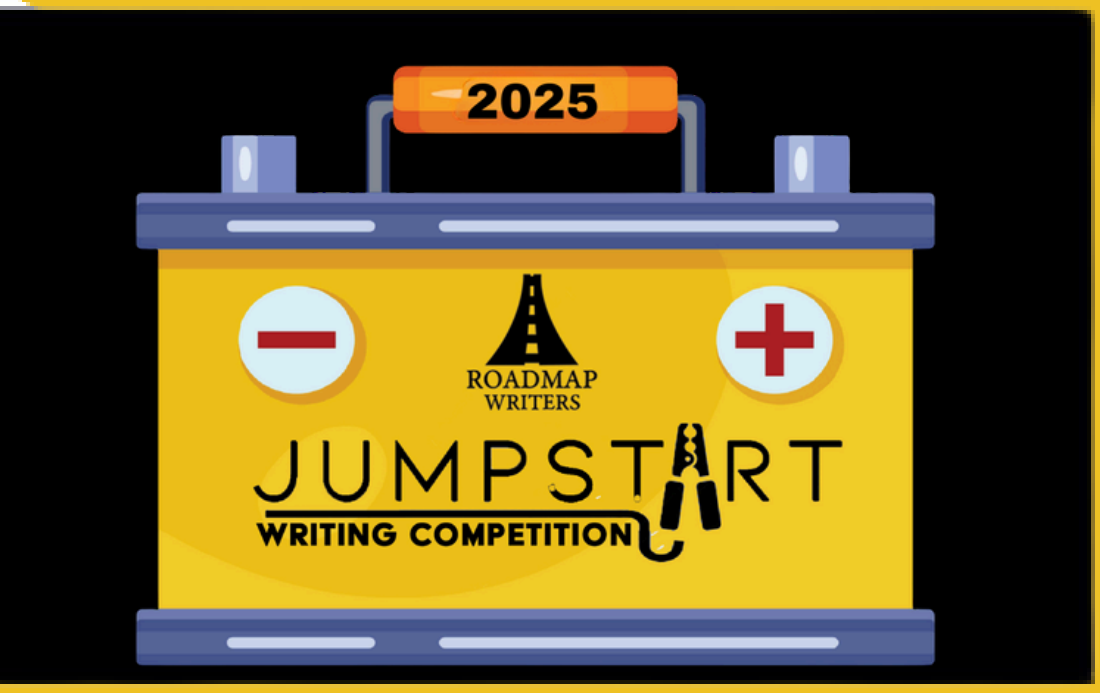
Samantha is a New York City-born, LA-based screenwriter. She received her M.F.A. in Screenwriting from AFI. After her pilot THE GREAT BRIDGE's successful stint being hosted on the Black List, she was chosen to be a part of the 2021 CannesFilm Unlimited Residency program. During this program, she developed An AXE FOR THE FROZEN SEA. She went on to workshop this script further during the Summer 2024 Rocaberti Writers' Retreat. Her scripts are female-driven, world-building-focused, and play with societal expectations and perceptions.

Script: AN AXE FOR THE FROZEN SEA



Logline:
Set in a fictionalized Soviet state, An Axe For The Frozen Sea follows a Socialist realist writer and his wife on their journey from good soldiers to revolutionaries.

FINALISTS: PILOTS



2025



JAMES CRISP

Bio:

James Crisp is a lot better at writing about fictional characters than himself, so here are the bullet points:

New Zealand-born Sydney Film School Graduate, relocated to Los Angeles in 2021. An award-winning writer/director who prefers to project reality rather than reflect it.

Script: THE LAST WORD

Logline:
A struggling actor, while navigating his own personal demons, stumbles upon an unexpected source of income and inspiration: reading eulogies for the deceased.

J.R. SPAULDING, JR.

Bio:

J.R. Spaulding Jr. received an M.A. in theatre history from Michigan State University, where his mentor, Professor Frank Rutledge, once told him with great sincerity, "Dionysus weeps for you." He has worked as an actor, director, technical director, and guest instructor at theatres across the country. Currently, he works as a teacher and theatre artist in metro Detroit and is blessed with one dazzling wife, two lovable stepchildren, and three tolerable cats.

Script: RESCUE EDDIE



Logline:
When a quixotic nursing assistant embarks on a mission to discover why he is slowly transforming into a zombie, he draws the ire of the mad scientist who runs the interdimensional secret research facility down the street.



LAUREN CONOSCENTI

Bio:

Swords! Spaceships! Superpowers! Lauren Conoscenti writes propulsive popcorn genre dramas, nudging reluctant outsiders into found families through an optimistic lens. Big action. Bigger heart.

Raised in Amish Country, TV was Conoscenti's window to the world. A student of first-run syndication, she learned structure-and her love of genre fare-by watching swashbuckling action/adventure shows on repeat. From gargoyles to immortal bounty hunters, Conoscenti uses otherworldly characters to tell four-quadrant stories that encourage, devastate, and inspire.

Conoscenti recently served as Showrunners' Assistant on Season 2 of Fox's critically-acclaimed FANTASY ISLAND reboot and as Writers' PA on USA's DARE ME, The CW's JANE THE VIRGIN, and Fox's LETHAL WEAPON. Prior to writers' rooms in Los Angeles, she managed commercial crews and post teams in NYC; Conoscenti thrives on set and is known for her eagle eye in the edit. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Her work has received industry commendation, notably as the Runner Up in Roadmap Writers' JumpStart Competition, as a Second Rounder in the Warner Bros. Television Writers' Workshop and Austin Film Festival, and as seen on The Bitch List, The Stunt List, The Red List, and The Women's List (featured in The Hollywood Reporter).

Beyond the industry, Conoscenti has worked in professional kitchens and enjoys culinary adventures with friends.

Script: GARGOYLE HIGH

Logline:
In this supernatural teen drama, a new student navigates the trials of an all-girls boarding school - homework, an antagonistic roommate, the ancient creatures she keeps releasing on campus - while striving to uncover the truth about her biological family.



MIYA KODAMA

Bio:

Miya Kodama is a queer Japanese-Korean American writer and actor from Fresno, CA.

She was a writer for the 2018 CBS Showcase, with her sketch "Do You Like to Travel?" being 1 of 20 final sketches performed at the El Portal Theater. 5 years later, she was selected as an actor for the 2023 CBS Showcase, where she penned her own featured sketch, "Battle Zone: H-Mart".

Miya has performed stand-up at the Hollywood Improv and The Comedy Store, and studied at The Groundlings Theater and UCB. She writes in the hopes of creating a show or movie so cool, her therapist nearly tells their friends and violates HIPAA.

Script: HAFŪ

Logline:
When half-Japanese, half-Korean Ami Hwang and half-Japanese, half-white Emi Conners meet the weekend before college begins, the two immediately despise each other - only to discover they are, in fact, half-sisters - and their estranged father is dead.



VERED NETA

Bio:

Vered Neta is a screenwriter and author whose work champions women rewriting the rules of age, relevance, and power. Living proof that it's never too late to begin again, she started writing in her late fifties and has since created three screenplays, a stage musical, and two documentaries.

Born in Israel, Vered has lived in four countries across three continents. Today, she and her husband make their home off the grid on a small farm in Tenerife, surrounded by vegetables, citrus trees, and far too many chickens. This mix of global perspective and grounded simplicity gives her stories both grit and heart.

Her debut novel, Things We Do For Love, is a family drama that explores motherhood and Alzheimer's through an unexpected lens, challenging how we view identity, care, and love when memory unravels. Her latest novel, Full Circle, is a sweeping historical tale set during the Prague Spring of 1968, capturing the personal and political struggles of fighting for freedom under a dictatorship.

Her pilot, Crime Cleaners, a dark comedy about four sixty-something women pulled into laundering crime scenes, was selected as a 2025 JumpStart Finalist with Roadmap Writers. Beyond her own projects, she contributes to the renowned Bang2Write blog, works as a script reader, and reviews films at international festivals, including Raindance.

Her next project: a historical TV miniseries on Sara Aaronsohn, the woman who led a Jewish spy network that helped shape the fate of World War I.

Vered's characters embody humour, resilience, and audacity, proving that relevance doesn't fade with age, and that the boldest reinventions often begin in life's so-called later chapters.

Script: CRIME CLEANERS

Logline:

After a woman kills her abusive husband, her sixty-something mother and her friends help her hide the body and clean up. Unfortunately, they are so successful a local Crime Boss forces them to clean his own murder scenes.

IMPORTANT CONTACT



TIFFANY YARDE

DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIONS

Roadmap Writers

tiffany@roadmapwriters.com

Tiffany Yarde is a Caribbean-American screenwriter developing thriller and horror projects that fuse psychological tension with culturally rooted storytelling. Raised in Brooklyn by Bajan immigrant parents, her work explores fear as a byproduct of identity, generational trauma, and survival, using genre to challenge monolithic portrayals of the Black experience while delivering high-stakes, emotionally grounded narratives.

Her credits include the TV movie DRESS FOR SUCCESS (Tubi) and the short films BON VOYAGE and OUT OF TIME. Tiffany was a fellow of the inaugural Creative Corridor Program, a transatlantic initiative by Independent Film Trust and Roadmap Writers, where she developed genre-forward projects alongside an international creative cohort.

She holds a B.A. in English from Bryn Mawr College and an MFA in Screenwriting from the David Lynch School of Cinematic Arts. Tiffany is focused on building elevated thriller and horror stories with global appeal and lasting emotional impact.