

ARTC Writers Meeting
minutes
02/21/2021

- Attending: Brad Strickland, Retta Bodhaine, David Benedict, Bill Ritch, Kelli Steccato, Brian Smith, Ellie Raine, Ron Butler, Robert Drake, Madison ?, Vincent ?
- called to order at 18:06
- David has sent an email regarding future production
 - the media market is trending towards longer/serialized content
 - this does not mean we are refusing shorter works, but our studio focus will be geared towards lengthier (4+ hours) material
 - Serialized work does not necessarily need continuity throughout
 - Anthology series need to have a strong theme throughout
- In the past, we have asked Audible for exceptions regarding work we would like to distribute ourselves; this is typically granted & we sell as a podcast or on the website
 - this is more difficult with an anthology series
- There is an idea of releasing the old version of 'The Time Machine', along with either a newer version or something more recent
 - this would be a way to show an audience the evolution of ARTC
 - interviews/panels with tenured members of ARTC could accompany work of this variety
- David believes the voice tracks for 'Country of the Blind' are unusable
 - the script itself has issues with being 'unsatisfying'
 - changing the setting to avoid accents is suggested
 - the author (Daniel Taylor) will be consulted
- Retta is trying to recruit additional producers within ARTC
- 4+ hours of material is approximately 40,000 - 45,000 words
 - Anthology/serialized work would be easier to assemble and looks more attractive to writers
- David suggests that there is a bigger market for serialized works than anthology
 - We have been constrained by radio/convention time slots
 - ARTC is in the habit of making shorter works due to constraints
 - Authors should no longer feel bound by these
- Retta claims it is difficult to write for shows like Mercury when lacking knowledge of the complete backstory
 - the Mercury 'Bible' helps, but is sometimes insufficient
 - how do we write better in teams?

- David says for shorter series, a 'bible' works better
- thematic episodes of Mercury are welcome
 - 'no two writers will come from the same perspective'
- for a series like 'Johnny Raven', Brad suggests having a lead writer who oversees major plot points
 - individual writers would be 'shepherded' by the lead
 - there is a concern that the 'world of sound' may become uninteresting
 - more character development to combat this
- Brian requests that we be thinking about short scripts for the holiday show in December
 - a series of virtual productions for Halloween should be considered
- Writers will generate a list of themes they find interesting prior to the next writer's meeting
 - to be posted on the wiki or sent to writers@artc.org
 - we can generate ideas for longer scripts from the list
- meeting adjourned (no time given)