

# **The Budget List 2022**

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# **We're proud to present this year's**

## **The Budget List,** the best unproduced, low budget screenplays from 2022.

**W**hile the World seems to be changing constantly and quickly, one thing that hasn't changed is Hollywood's appetite for high quality, low budget screenplays. We continue to see lots of demand for these sorts of projects.

In fact, producer Chad Ridgely optioned and produced Julia Bergeron's Murder Van, which he found on The Budget List a few years ago. The project is currently in post-production and should be completed in 2023.

At SellingYourScreenplay.com we interface with lots of low budget screenplays, both through our screenplay analysis service as well as SYS's Six-Figure Screenplay Contest. Below you will find log lines from the best low budget scripts from the analysis service as well as all the quarter finalists and better from the contest.

Both features and TV pilots were eligible. If you're a producer / agent / manager / director / development executive and would like to learn more about any of these projects, please email us at [info@sellingyourscreenplay.com](mailto:info@sellingyourscreenplay.com).

Congratulations to all the scripts that are being recognized on this year's list, and a big congratulations to all the Quarter Finalists in SYS's Six-Figure Screenplay Contest.

We present the 6th annual The Budget List...

**The Isle of Thom** (Thriller)

by Christopher Mancuso & Richard J Miller

A junkyard inventor must get his children across a sea filled with predators before their island sinks into The Sigsbee Deep.

**Bring Him to the River** (horror)

by Martin Bartlett

A group of buddies on the way to Burning Man Festival find themselves trapped in a mysterious campsite with a revolving time warp and hunted down by a crazed serial killer from the past.

**Ghosts of Cape May** (drama)

by Tom Frangicetto

Two suicidal people help each other exorcise the ghosts that haunt their lives in a hotbed for paranormal activity--beautiful and spooky Cape May by the sea.

# **F E A T U R E S**

# Amy Rebecca **Blackwelder**



## **The Edge of Darkness/DARK SMOKE** (horror)

**Log Line:** When ominous dark smoke that preys on movement covers the skies of a small town, an Olympic runner is one of the last survivors and must struggle to protect her neighbor's child.

**Writer Bio:** Born to story tell, Amy Blackwelder has been weaving stories since before she could write. She's an educator by trade, avid gardener and traveler. After adopting a Siamese while teaching in Thailand, Lotus is still with her thirteen years later. She had cancer in 2021 which has been treated to hopefully never return. She also has four finalist placements, one win and nine Top 100 placements, along with a Top 10% at the Nicholl Fellowship Academy.

**Reader Comments:** The greatest strength of this script is its high concept. While the plot is loaded with topical metaphors and deep subtext, the writer did a great job in creating a world in which the black smoke takes on several personality traits of its own.

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# Shiva Ramanathan



## **The Unseen**

(Thriller)

**Log Line:** With an unusual happiness haunting the world, four strangers receive cryptic messages from an unseen entity that lead them to a remote desert on Christmas Eve where something momentous awaits. First, they must uncover the reason they were chosen if they are to survive what is about to happen.

**Writer Bio:** I have been an engineer, an unemployed dreamer and a software architect. But, what gives me real joy is storytelling. It's because every story I pursue reveals something wonderful about life that I've seen but never noticed. While *The Unseen* has been in Coverfly's Red List and done well in competitions like Nicholl & Page, this story is especially close to me for one reason - it helped me uncover the healing power of writing.

**Reader Comment:** An intriguing and compelling concept. The mystery keeps the plot moving swiftly and the reader on the edge of their seat. Resolution and plot leading up to it are well constructed.

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# SEMI-FINALISTS

**Bad Business** (comedy)  
by Andrew Adams

**Log Line:** In the wake of his estranged father's death, a greedy businessman returns to Maryland in order to sell the farm he grew up on... Only to find himself pulled into a bizarre and crime-laden plot by a set of eccentric locals.

**Reader Comment:** This script has a lot of great qualities and overall feels very complete. The characters all have depth and personality, the concept is killer and the structure ensured the mystery came in appropriately. This is very well written and reminded me of a few films.

**Barth** (drama)  
by Scott Marshall Taylor

**Log Line:** A sheriff in mysterious small town struggles to replace his deceased brother.

**Reader Comment:** The main strengths of his script are the characters, the concept and the structure. Each character feels well developed and they add to each scene simply just by being present. The concept is well thought out and made for a very interesting read. The way everything unfolds in the last few pages really keeps you on the edge of your seat. Once one mystery is solved it seems like there is another just waiting to be uncovered.

**A Solid B** (thriller)  
by Brian O'Connor

**Log Line:** When his high school bully comes back into his life and that bully sets his sights on his out of his league girlfriend, a normally passive, average Joe decides to fight back. But his life spirals out of control in a game of revenge when his girlfriend and he blame each other for another young woman's disappearance.

**Blue Winter** (horror)  
by Madison Sean Flannery

**Log Line:** Upon learning of her estranged sister's disappearance, a woman struggling with mental illness journeys to a remote mansion where she battles both real and imagined demons to discover the truth.

**Call Me Thor** (drama)  
by Jamie Campbell

**Log Line:** In 1991, a chubby, pre-adolescent metalhead and his pregnant mother change their identities and go on the run from the men who refuse to let them go.

**Christian Morris** (drama)  
by Jeffery Brown

**Log Line:** A man dying of AIDS reunites with his best friend to clear his conscience of his promiscuous past, and to lay to rest the life-long secrets kept between them.

**Funeral for a Friend** (drama)  
by Brian Mulligan

**Log Line:** A strong-willed teen and her guilt-ridden brother battle grief and each other after the accidental death of their closest friend changes their lives forever.

QUARTERFINALISTS  
QUARTER



**Mercy Dearest** (comedy)

by Joseph Guerrieri

**Log Line:** Two brothers concoct an elaborate scheme to trick their aunt into moving out of her home so they can sell it to real estate developers.

**The First Michael** (comedy)

by Michael Buonocore

**Log Line:** When their cross-country trip to Florida to confront his biological father ends with Michael learning the hard way he got the wrong guy, best friends Michael and Lanie have three days to change course to New York and hunt down the right one before everyone finds out what morons they are. Based on a true story.

**The Last Stage, or Wyatt's Earp Dying Dream** (drama)

by Bruce Scivally

**Log Line:** In a Los Angeles bungalow in 1929, Wyatt Earp - dying from uremic poisoning - imagines an ending more befitting a man of his reputation: returning to his mining claims in a small desert town, tying up loose ends with his codependent Jewish wife, Sadie, and - after he strikes gold - confronting a quartet of robbers in a showdown.

**The Loneliest Road** (drama)

by Thayenne Behr

**Log Line:** Heading West on the loneliest road in America, a heavy-hearted trucker forms an unexpected friendship with a young girl seeking a ride to California. Setting out on a secret quest for redemption, he finds himself facing demons of a past life as the road takes him on a journey throughout time.

**The Voyeur's Logbook** (thriller)

by Kenneth Perkins

**Log Line:** A Peeping Tom gas station clerk becomes the main suspect in a murder investigation when officers discover he keeps a logbook that might help unravel pertinent clues to their case.

# SHORTS

# Winner

**Gloomy Sunday** (horror)  
by Kevin Machate

**Log Line:** When a mysterious stranger comes to him to learn a song long believed to lead to suicide, music teacher Jonah Horvath must discover the truth behind both the stranger and the mysterious song, before he becomes yet another victim of Gloomy Sunday.

# Runner-Up

**Thirty Magic Candles** (horror)  
by Joe Hurst

**Log Line:** A woman's overdependence on her frustrated mother becomes grotesque after an ironic birthday wish.

# Semifinalists

**Scumbags** (comedy)

by Tony Hunter

**Log Line:** Petty criminals Beau and Denny rip off the wrong gangster, landing themselves in a sticky situation.

# Quarterfinalists

**The Autocorrect Stage** (drama)

by Sara Joy Skerritt

**Log Line:** Two dancers who work in a teenage girl's phone compete to be the best in their workplace, but competition blinds one dancer to the purpose behind their work.

**Waiting For Joey Pants** (drama)

by Tom Cavanaugh

**Log Line:** A young autistic actor tries to meet his idol and talk about his acting career when his father shows up and tries to change everything in the boys life.

**If** you would like to learn more about any of these writers or screenplays please contact us at [info@sellingyourscreenplay.com](mailto:info@sellingyourscreenplay.com).

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