

THE  
BUDGET  
LIST!  
2025

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# WELCOME TO THE 9TH EDITION OF SYS'S THE BUDGET LIST!

At [SellingYourScreenplay.com](http://SellingYourScreenplay.com) we interface with lots of low budget screenplays throughout the year through [SYS's Six-Figure Film Festival and Screenplay Contest](#), our [script analysis service](#), and our industry connections. And each year we like to highlight the best low budget, unproduced screenplays that we find.

While the quality of a screenplay is extremely subjective, the screenplays in this year's list were scripts that impressed us enough to want to share them with our network of industry contacts. So 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 writers whose screenplays caught our attention this year. Hopefully we can help find homes for all of these unique and interesting stories.

Below you will find log lines for all of these terrific screenplays.

Without further ado, here is the 9th annual The Budget List...

# FEATURE SCREENPLAYS

## 2025 WINNER:

### **Reverie [sci-fi] by Giada Curiale**

**Log Line:** After receiving an experimental chip that lets him rewrite his memories, a grieving nurse alters his past – but each change pulls him further from reality.

### **Readers' Comments:**

“It's a great concept and the piece is well written in terms of craft. There is a continuing desire to see how events unfold.”

“The screenplay is very well written. The writer has strong skills in world-building, character development, pacing, and setting up scenes in the action lines. The tension is maintained throughout the story, and all three acts will keep the audience engaged.”

“The structure is strong. The ending is satisfying but sad. The script is easy to read and understand.”

## 2025 RUNNER UP

### **Underneath the Daffodils [drama] by Isaiah Mouw**

**Log Line:** A quiet, reserved man in his 70s, who spends his days gardening, has his life turned upside down when a true crime podcast reignites the painful rumor that he was responsible for the unsolved disappearance of his teenage daughter 20 years ago.

## **Readers' Comments:**

“The concept is intriguing. The writer has crafted an original and emotional story featuring authentic characters.”

“The characters are greatly developed – particularly Richard and Meryl, though every supporting player comes to play a key role.”

“Suspenseful. The storylines weave together well. The podcasts do propel the story. Great story, believable dialogue.”

## **2025 SEMI FINALISTS**

### **Echo by (sci-fi) Daniel Elkayam**

**Log Line:** An impoverished young inventor finds himself the target of a mysterious conspiracy after he inadvertently creates a machine with the ability to send information back in time.

## **Readers' Comments:**

“The script is very well written. The writer has strong skills in world-building, maintaining suspense and tension, all while moving the plot forward.”

“This is a rare type of script where the story makes you want to keep going to see what new concept might be explored next and what twist might be coming.”

### **NO GOING BACK (thriller) by Donald Goldmacher**

**Log Line:** When a NASA scientist exposes Big Oil's responsibility for climate change, corporate America and the US government collude to silence her.

## **Readers' Comments:**

“The concept is timely, and the story explores themes and concepts that an audience will connect with.”

“This is an amazing thriller that pokes at a relevant (and highly warning) subject - climate change.”

## **Poems of Yore (comedy) Quanah Jay Hicks**

**Log Line:** An aspiring painter's works unexpectedly go viral as a result of poetry he receives through dreams.

## **Readers' Comments:**

“The concept is incredibly original and quite engaging.”

“This is a wild ride from start to finish. It's thoughtful, original, it never does what you think it's going to -- a total joy to read.”

## **One Little Push (drama) by Paul Clarke**

**Log Line:** To help his gravely ill daughter, a desperate father robs a suburban home, but finds the homeowner with a gun in his mouth. The man cannot pull the trigger and offers everything he owns in exchange for finishing the job.

## **Readers' Comments:**

“The writer has crafted a relatable story with authentic characters that can connect with an audience.”

“A novel situation well presented.”

## **Sanctuary [thriller] by Brian McQuery**

**Log Line:** A paranoid woman in witness protection mourns her murdered husband while she desperately tries to connect with the new people in her life, but the danger she fears proves to be true.

### **Readers' Comments:**

“Easy read, good job. Relatable. Low budget.”

“The script succeeds in exploring the angst and paranoia Marie feels as she is isolated yet misses human interaction (particularly her family) and the way she struggles to create new relationships.”

## **2025 QUARTER FINALISTS**

### **Blasphemous [horror] by Warren Lane and Jon Tenzing Neralich**

**Log Line:** Five pearl-clutching tales of religious horror.

### **Haunted [horror / comedy] by James Michael Farley**

**Log Line:** A jaded ghost-hunting crew fakes scares for their online show—until a real demon challenges the crew and their egotistical leader, turning their latest shoot into a hellish fight for survival.

### **Rock Me [Like a Hurricane] [comedy] by Stanley Pomianowski**

**Log Line:** A couple on fertility treatments with one final shot at getting pregnant have to fight for privacy to conceive their first child when a hurricane traps them in their house with ALL of their extended family.

### **The Chained Man (drama) by Vincent Scarsella**

**Log Line:** After being abducted and chained to a basement wall, a self-absorbed lawyer is forced into a mind-altering psychological battle with his enigmatic captor claiming to offer him the key to truth and salvation. But as the days pass, the lawyer must determine whether he's the victim of a subversive cult or merely dreamed his capture to escape an unhappy life.

### **The Rainy Night Stalker (thriller) by Debbie Shannon**

**Log Line:** Psychic forensic photographer communicates with the dead to solve their murders.

### **The Tomb (drama) by Darren Nash**

**Log Line:** A boy and his sister are trapped in a mysterious chamber and must contend with an alien invasion.

# SHORT SCREENPLAYS

## 2025 WINNER:

### **ULIS (drama) by Fabiana De Bellis**

**Log Line:** On a remote island, Gaia, a hard-of-hearing girl, shocks her classmates by auditioning as Ulysses in the school play. As laughter ripples through the class, Gaia sets out to prove she can face her demons and pass the rocks without falling under the spell.

#### **Reader's Comments:**

“The concept is beautiful. There are many things to enjoy from this script, and is amazing how it can achieve so many things in such a short length.”

## 2025 RUNNER UP:

### **Lluvia De Peces (horror) by Andrés Mejia and Jonah Ocuto**

**Log Line:** In a surreal dystopia where asylum seekers compete on a game show for the chance to win citizenship, a Honduran mother is forced to relive the traumas that brought her to the U.S.—and make an impossible choice between her daughter and her sister.

#### **Reader's Comments:**

“This narrative is very moving for those with a conscience and a feel for humanity.”

## **2025 SEMI FINALIST:**

### **The Inheritance of Purpose [family] by Alex Mehta**

**Log Line:** An elderly professor obsessively searching for traces of his long-dead brother on a beach encounters a mysterious boy building elaborate sandcastles, who challenges him to stop searching for what he's lost and start rebuilding what truly matters before the tide comes in.

### **Reader's Comments:**

“Perhaps what stands out the most with this script is how beautifully its metaphors work.”

## **2025 QUARTER FINALISTS**

### **Paris [drama] by H R Webb**

**Log Line:** In memory of lost love and lost time an OLD MAN returns to Paris for one last time.

### **The Old Man And The Paintbrush [animation] by Christopher Loveland**

**Log Line:** An old artist discovers what he was missing.

### **Tough Love [thriller] by Warren Lane**

**Log Line:** In this dark coming-of-age tale a suicidal tween finds a reason to live after her maniacal new therapist shows her how to quiet the voices inside her head.

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).