



## 2010 PCS Script Submission Guidelines

### A. Submission Application

Please read these guidelines carefully and follow all directions for submission. All projects are required to submit a twenty dollar (\$20) entrance fee per script and five copies of each of the following: (a) Submission Application Form (b) Final Script -- ten-minute or less (about 8 script formatted pages) screenplay with dialog for evaluation and (c) The Production Outline Form. A maximum of ten scripts will be selected to move to the production phase over the summer.

Screenplays must conform to proper script formatting to be accepted as an entry (each page should equate to approximately one minute of screen time with the emphasis upon lines of dialog from each character). Note: if you need help with the proper format, use these steps. 1. Go to [www.screen2screen.com](http://www.screen2screen.com) 2. On the right near the top you will see "Direct Downloads." If you have Windows XP, download the Screenstyler XP version. Otherwise, match the version to the Windows generation you have. 3. Click and download. 4. When it asks if you want to enable macros when you are creating a new template each time, you have to say yes. Or check out <http://www.celtx.com/> (Celtx is a free, web-based, script-writing tool in a bunch of languages. From film scripts to radio commercials, they have a version for you. Take a look. )

Music options for your noncommercial film can be found at the link below. This portion of [moby.com](http://www.moby.com), 'film music', is for independent and non-profit filmmakers, film students, and anyone in need of free music for their independent, non-profit film, video, or short. To use the site you log in and are then given a password. You can then listen to the available music and download whatever you want to use in your film or video or short. The music is free as long as it's being used in a non-commercial or non-profit film, video, or short. If you want to use it in a commercial film or short then you can apply for an easy license, with any money that's generated being given to the humane society. <http://www.mobygratis.com/film-music.html>

## B. How does your film say "Sacramento"?

A major consideration of the judges will be scripts featuring a unifying theme telling something insightful about life and people in Sacramento. Using your creativity, how does your film provide a special or unique perspective on our community? Options include recognizable landmarks, human characters, stories that challenge the audience to see Sacramento with fresh eyes and ears. Write "dialog" not a "travelogue". Tell us a tale about the neighborhood, a special group of people, an amazing event real or imagined. Tell us about where you live... a place called Sacramento.

## C. How does Access Sacramento help?

Some writer/producers have the production equipment and human resources necessary to complete their films with very little assistance. Others have very few resources or past experience in filmmaking. Access Sacramento has some resources that may help you as needed. Please complete the enclosed Production Outline to help us understand what, if any, help you will need. There are no cash funds available but plenty of ingenuity and past experience.

If you lack the resources to produce the selected film independently, you may invite Access Sacramento to co-produce the film. As needed, Access will provide technical support and equipment with the following limitations. All field production must be completed in no more than two weekend days. Post-production editing is limited to no more than three, eight-hour days of video editing. The number of projects Access Sacramento can complete is limited and these productions shall be a shared ownership between the producer/writer and Access Sacramento. See Application and Production Outline forms for details.

## D. Who is responsible for the project and the completion of the film?

The selected films will require the scriptwriter/producer to be responsible for completing the film and for assembling the production team. You will be the "Producer". All scheduling, production team coordination, budgeting, etc. will be your responsibility. You can invite help but it will be your project. Time and energy will be required for this process. Be thinking of friends, family and co-workers who might help you... together with Access Sacramento, it is a team effort.

#### E. Ten minutes means ten minutes!

PCS is a "short format" film competition. All final films must be less than 10 minutes total running time including your titles and end credits. To create a ten-minute film we recommend scripts be less than eight pages long. If your final film runs longer than ten minutes, we will only run the first ten minutes and your credits will be lost. Don't let this happen. Ten minutes or less means just that. NOTE: If your film contains a "cast of thousands" with many different locations and special effects, rethink your screenplay. You have written a script that may work once you secure many thousands of dollars for a budget but you are not there yet. PCS can be your stepping-stone to that success.

#### F. PCS welcomes children and families and so do all our films

All PCS films are advertised as viewable by persons of all ages including children. The PCS Crest Theater premiere invites young persons to celebrate this creative endeavor with their parents, friends and other adults. Imagine if you were ten years old and in the company of so many fascinating adults - wouldn't you want to make movies? Content must be appropriate for network television, prime time programming. No inappropriate language, nudity, or excessive violence will be accepted for submission. Scenes or language found to be unacceptable in the final film must be modified or the film will not be shown as part of the PCS event. The decision of PCS staff is final.

#### G. Who is eligible to enter a PCS script?

Submission is open to Northern California residents who live close enough to Sacramento County to produce their film here during the summer months. Access Sacramento staff, Board members, and PCS juror panelists are not permitted to enter scripts to PCS.

#### H. Focus upon "managing" the project from script submission to the final deadlines

Write your script with imagination and wit, not with elaborate special effects, large casts or costly sets. Emphasize strong characters, believable dialogue, Sacramento County locales, local original music, and complete the film on deadline. We strongly advise against making your creative production process so complex, that completion of the project becomes burdensome. Finishing the project, with the highest quality you can afford, and enjoying the premier showing at the Crest Theatre is a grand experience. Don't miss out... be clever, not complex.

I. I need some guidance. What help will be provided?

Access Sacramento has many events planned to help with the various stages of writing and production. Any PCS participant may attend. A \$5 donation will be asked from each workshop attendee to help defer the expenses of the trainers. Below you will find the dates and descriptions. Attendance is invited but not mandatory.

J. Final deadlines to turn in scripts for judging and films for screening.

Deadline for script entries and your twenty-dollar entry fee is Monday April 19, 2010 by Noon in the Access Sacramento Office. Postmarked packages after this date and time will not be accepted. The final film must be received by Access Sacramento no later than Noon, Wednesday September 1, 2010. Questions may be directed to (916) 456-8600 #112 or visit the web site [www.AccessSacramento.org](http://www.AccessSacramento.org) for additional information.

Written correspondence may be mailed to:

"A Place Called Sacramento"

c/o Access Sacramento

4623 T Street, Suite A

Sacramento, CA. 95819

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## **"A Place Called Sacramento"**

### **OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE FOR PCS WORKSHOPS 2010**

For the Eleventh year, Access Sacramento launches "A Place Called Sacramento" (PCS), a scriptwriting and short film production project for local writers and producers. PCS challenges local scriptwriters to write ten-minute scripts about the people, places, and events that make our community such a unique place to live (entry forms below and on-line at [www.accesssacramento.org](http://www.accesssacramento.org)). **The deadline for script submission is noon Monday April 19, 2010 in the Access Sacramento office.**

To assist in the writing and production of the scripts, a series of workshops are held at the Coloma Center throughout the Spring providing professional training in PCS scriptwriting, production planning, acting for the camera, low budget production, and post-production techniques. Details are available on the web site: [www.AccessSacramento.org](http://www.AccessSacramento.org)

All script entries are reviewed by a panel of local professionals and ten are selected. These ten scriptwriter/producers are then introduced to actors and production teams at our "Cast and Crew Call" **Wednesday, May 19, 2010**. Production teams are formed and the ten films are produced during the Summer months. Finally, after weeks of hard work and great fun, friends gather at the **World Premiere to a packed house at the CREST Theatre on October 3, 2010.**

To view the twelve films completed for the 2009 PCS film festival, go to the web site [www.AccessSacramento.org](http://www.AccessSacramento.org). In the ten years of PCS, 100 short films have been created. Access Sacramento is a nonprofit organization dedicated to using community media to build better communications between individuals and groups in Sacramento County. With our television studio, radio and television production equipment, media lab, mobile production truck, and other gear, we train and manage volunteers and share their work on cable radio and television channels 17 & 18.

**CONTACT: Ron Cooper, Executive Director**  
Access Sacramento  
4623 T Street, Suite A  
Sacramento, CA. 95819  
(916) 456-8600 #112  
[www.AccessSacramento.org](http://www.AccessSacramento.org)

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## 2010 TIMELINE FOR PCS WORKSHOP EVENTS AND DEADLINES

- **Announce 2010 Call for Scripts... Monday February 1, 2010**
- **Workshop "Writing a Winning Script" ... Saturday March 6 (9 AM - Noon)**

Learn from past PCS writer experiences. What does "script format" mean? Why writing dialog is so important. Mentoring helps you craft a winning entry.
- **NEW! Short Form Script Writing Class with Screenwriter Matt Perry**

Three, 4-hour classes on writing "short form" film scripts. Polish your PCS entry or further your film writing skills, Matt is well respected in the film community.

Session #1 - Saturdays - March 13, 20, & 27 - 10 AM-2 PM - Coloma Center  
Session #2 - Saturdays - April 3, 10, & 17 - 10 AM-2 PM - Coloma Center

Register in Access Sac Office - limited enrollment - \$50 Fee per session
- **PCS Script Deadline... Monday April 19 (Noon) Acc/Sac Office**
- **PCS Script Judging... April 19-May 12**
- **Workshop "Acting for the Camera" Saturday April 24 (12:00-3:00)**

A workshop with professional Sacramento acting teachers designed to help new filmmakers select and work with actors both professional and beginners..
- **Cast and Crew Call... Wednesday May 19 (6:00 PM - 8:30 PM)**

Join with hundreds of interested cast and crewmembers to meet the selected screenwriters and hear their stories. You can help make a movie! Production teams are formed and interested actors create a PCS "audition tape".
- **Workshop "PCS Production Planning" ... Saturday June 12 (9 AM - Noon)**

The ten teams gather to receive further instructions, production tips, and share ideas. Participants invited shall include key members of each production team.
- **Workshop Post-Production/Editing ... Saturday July 10 (9 AM- Noon)**

As final editing approaches, learn some tips from the experts. Finalize your formatting, credits, and other questions needed to meet the deadline.
- **Deadline for Final PCS Films -Tues. September 7 (Noon Acc/Sac Office)**

Hard deadline, no excuses.

- **2010 PCS World Premiere... Sunday October 3, 2010 (1:00 PM)**

All completed films premiere on the Big Screen at the Crest. Invite your family, friends and strangers you want to impress... a great show about... a place called Sacramento!

**NOTE: Workshops request a \$5 donation to help with the expenses of the teachers and guest speakers. The "Cast and Crew Call" is free of charge to all interested.**



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**"A Place Called Sacramento" Submission Application Form:**  
**Please fill out completely. Please include 5 copies of completed script,**  
**5 copies of the Production Outline, and 5 copies of this form.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **(h)** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **(w)** **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Script:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Intended running time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- I intend to self produce my film. **Initial** \_\_\_\_\_ (if no please mark N/A)
- I need Access Sacramento as Co-producer. **Initial** \_\_\_\_\_ (If no please mark N/A)

**100 word description of story and characters (use additional page as needed):**

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**Statement of understanding:**

- I understand that in an effort to encourage local film/video production, Access Sacramento charges a \$20 fee for submission to the PCS project along with 5 copies of my completed script. I understand and agree that Access Sacramento holds no responsibility for lost scripts. I also understand that if not selected, my script copies will be returned only if I include a self-addressed stamped envelope. (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_
- I understand that a completed Production Outline Form is required for self produced films. I understand and agree to all the guidelines for submission. (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_
- I understand and agree that Access Sacramento may use my film, all or in part, for any marketing activities. Uses of my film's content may include but are not limited to sale of copies, additional distribution, playback over Access channels, print marketing pieces and commercial advertisements. (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_
- I understand and agree that by submitting this application, I shall abide by the Access Sacramento Operating Rules and Procedures and agree to adhere to all items identified in the Statement of Compliance (copies available in Office and at [www.accesssacramento.org](http://www.accesssacramento.org)). (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_
- I understand that copyright ownership of films co-produced by Access Sacramento will be shared. No showing of such projects beyond this agreement shall be made without the consent of both Access Sacramento and the co-producer. (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark N/A if you plan to self-produce.)
- I understand and agree with all above stated criteria for submission and agree to terms outlined herein.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# "A Place Called Sacramento" Production Outline Form

Please fill out the form below to the best of your ability and submit with your script.

## Title of Film

\_\_\_\_\_

**Screenwriter** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **(home)** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **(work)**

**Please describe anticipated production challenges and plans to overcome them. Identify any persons or community resources that you plan to use in helping to meet these challenges.**

**Challenges:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Producer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **(home)** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **(work)**

**Director** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **(home)** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **(work)**

**Cameraperson** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **(home)** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **(work)**

**Please describe production equipment to be used for this film and how do you plan to obtain the use this equipment.**

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**Please include any other information you wish to include that may help the judges to pick your script as one of the ten to be produced in 2010?**

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